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The Rearing of Chicks by Natural Methods

EVEN when chickens are reared in the natural way — under the care of the mother hen — we cannot leave everything to nature. The hen herself, in a state of domestication, is an artificial product, and though the original hens, which were wild in the woods, might be trusted to raise their offspring, the domestic hen cannot be depended upon to bring up her chicks without human aid. In exceptional cases she may do it, but the general rule is that she will lose many chicks for want of proper care. The instinct has been dulled by domestication, and man must bring his intelligence to her aid to take the place of the natural instinct of which he has deprived her.

When chicks are newly hatched then they must not be left entirely to the care of the mother. She would be inclined to take them off the nest too soon, and to lead them in search of food; but what they really want above all things is brooding, and it is not too long to keep them in the nest for thirty hours after they have emerged from the shell. If the nest is a well made one it will be only necessary to take away the shells, flatten out the nest a bit, and fill the corners of the box if they are vacant, so that the chicks cannot roll out of the nest, and perish from exposure. The nest box may then be closed up and darkened, but care must be taken to leave plenty of room for ventilation. When this has been done the hen and chicks may be left to themselves for several hours. The hen will brood them carefully, and by the end of twenty-four or thirty hours the chicks will have digested the yolk of egg which they absorbed immediately before leaving the shell. It is the yolk of the egg, thus absorbed, which keeps them alive for the first day, and as this food is ample for them they should not on any account be forced or induced to take food until they have digested the food provided by nature.

When we treat chicks in this way we start them right, and this is of the utmost importance. The next point then for our consideration is how to keep them right, and I believe that the manner of feeding and the foods used have a great deal to say in the matter. I cannot understand at all why so many writers recommend hard boiled eggs as a number one chick food. My experience is that this food causes indigestion, and I would just as soon have a dead chick as a chick suffering from indigestion. I prefer to feed my chicks eggs in the form of custard, and this is made by beating up four eggs in a pint of new milk, and baking in an ordinary pie dish. When cooked I have the custard mixed with fine oatmeal until it is rather dry and stiff. I next add a handful of finely chopped onions, and I consider that I have a really good chick food of a kind suitable for the first week of the chick's life. I feed the chicks once in every two hours during this time, but after the third day instead of feeding entirely on the mash described, I give occasional feeds of oatmeal cuttings, millet seed, boiled rice, and one small feed a day of finely chopped lean meat. I find, however, that when the weather is fine, and there are plenty of grasshoppers, ants, flies, and such insects to be found, it is better not to feed meat, and for this reason I only give it when chicks are shut in their coops on account of bad weather.

During their early days there are other foods which may also be fed to chicks, and for green foods I can recommend chopped leeks, onion tops, lettuce, lawn clippings, etc. All green foods should be finely chopped. It ought to be remembered also that milk is a wholesome food for nearly all young things having animal life, and there is no doubt that it is as good for chicks as it is for children or kittens. Milk is always plentiful on a farm, and it may be utilized in various ways.

One way is that which I have mentioned — in the making of custard. When made into curd it is always relished, and the whey is an excellent drink for chicks, or may be used to moisten their meal; and of course milk should always be given to chicks as a drink. There is much food in it, and food of a nature that is easily assimilated and that produces bone, muscle, flesh, and feathers. That is the kind of food that chicks will thrive upon, and skim milk is cheap and plentiful. For these reasons I always make it a point to let my chicks have all they will take in any form.

While the chicks are young the rule should be to feed little, feed often, but above all, feed regularly. If they are fed one day and starved the next their growth will get such a check that it may take days to recover it, but regular feeding keeps the chicks growing all the time, and when they are four

appliance into two parts, viz., coop, 24 x 30 inches, and run 36 x 30 inches. There is no bottom to either coop or run. It costs only two dollars to make one of these combined coops and runs.

When rearing chicks in winter and early spring I place the coops in a large airy shed with plenty of scratching material on the floor, but when the weather is mild I have them put out in a field and changed about from place to place every day. I think it a serious mistake to attempt raising too many chicks on one piece of ground if fresh ground can by any means be procured, for they never seem to thrive as well in a small place as they do when they can range over a farm and find for themselves animal food in the shape of insects, worms, etc., and vegetable food green as it grows. The best plan I have found is to distribute the coops over a large area of pasturage, and when the chicks are three or four days old the outer door of the run may be left open, and they will wander over the grass up to fifty yards on all sides of the coop, and will find every living insect within that space. It is not so good a method to let the hen run with the chicks for the first two weeks at least, because she hurries them over the ground, and they keep in a group so close that the strong chicks get all the insects, and the weaker ones have no chance. So long as the hen is shut in a coop every chick works independently, seeks his own worms, finds them, and eats them, too.

Chickens will not grow rapidly and thrive as they should unless they are supplied with green food in one form or another. I have already referred to the utility of giving them some chopped green food in their mash, but it is well to let them have a larger supply than is usually given in this way — that is to say, a supply that they can eat at will. When the coops are placed out in the pastures, and winter has passed away and the young grass begins to shoot up, the chicks will find all the green food they need, but there are times when they cannot get these tender shoots. They are not to be found when the grass grows strong and becomes parched with summer heat; neither are they to be had during the winter season.

I will give my plan for furnishing green stuff at such times. Here it is:—I have a number of wooden boxes, like those which are commonly used for flowers and seeds, size 36 inches long, 12 inches wide and 6 inches high. I place in these a quantity of rich garden loam, and sow in them some oats or barley. When the weather is cold the grains are forced by placing the boxes under glass frames, and in summer time I grow them in a cool place. The earth does not reach quite as high as the top of the box, and I have nailed across it a piece of wire netting of half inch mesh. The green shoots come through the wire and are greedily devoured by the chicks, but they cannot scratch the earth or displace the grains, and it is

surprising what quantity of green food a single box will yield — if some liquid manure or a light dressing of nitrate of soda is applied to it occasionally. It is well to sow the grain fairly thick, so that the roots will intertwine and the seedlings cannot be readily pulled up. I know of no plan so effective as this one for providing young chicks with a luxuriant green crop at almost all seasons, and many poultry keepers who have adopted the plan bear testimony to its value. The young and tender shoots are highly nitrogenous, and for this reason they conduce to the healthy growth of the chicks. Nitrogen is most valuable for the formation of every part of the body of a healthy growing chick, and for this reason every poultry keeper should take special care to provide it in the most economical way. Clover is a green food that is very rich in nitrogen, and for this reason clover seeds might be planted in boxes



Houdan Chicks.

Photo. by C. E. Petersen.

months old they should weigh four to four and one-half pounds if they belong to one of the large breeds.

After having tried and discarded many kinds of coops for young chicks, I have adopted one which I shall here describe and illustrate by photographs, and I do not think any further improvement can be made on it. The appliance I refer to is a coop and run combined beneath one roof. The total size is five feet long, thirty inches wide, and thirty inches in height to the apex. The height to the eaves is eighteen inches. The two gable ends, the roof and the back are built close of five-eighths inch boarding, and the front of the sleeping compartment is also boarded, but the front of the run is made of wire netting. The coop or sleeping chamber is divided from the run by a boarded partition, and this partition divides the

In the manner I have described. I have tried this, however, and I find that it does not give as good a growth as oats or barley.

The Fresh Water Supply.

It is possible to feed chickens in such a way that they will never care to take a drink of water. This may be done by having a good deal of moisture in the food or by supplying milk, but I like to see chicks drink pure fresh water, and I take special care to keep it before them, for fresh pure water purifies the blood and helps the action of the kidneys in the performance of their functions in a manner that no substitute can help them. Pure water is essential—absolutely essential—for man and beast—and chick.

Chicks are apt to get into the water and drown, and many a time have I lost some fine chicks in this way, but I don't think this will happen again, for I have lately been using some very safe fountains which I shall describe: My No. 1 fountain is made by taking an empty tin can such as are used for preserved fruit and vegetables and fixing the open end so that the can will stand level. If there is an air hole anywhere it must be closed by a drop of pewter. I next punch a small hole within half an inch of the open end. The fountain is now complete, and nothing more is to be done but to fill the can with clear water, place a saucer upside down on top of it, and invert both so that the saucer stands on the ground and the can stands in the center of the saucer with the open end turned down. The water rises in the saucer to the height of the hole in the can, but does not overflow, and as the chicks partake of it a fresh supply flows out. A can of one quart capacity is a good size, but a larger one may be used with a dinner plate in lieu of the saucer. When there are many chicks a quart of water does not last long, but of course one will have several fountains. It does not cost a fortune to make them.

Another plan of supplying water to chicks, and at the same time keeping them quite safe from drowning, is to take a wooden tub or trough or a similar vessel made of stone, iron or earthenware and fill it with clean stones about the size of a hen's egg. Then pour on the water until it rises to the height of the stones, and keep the vessel filled to this height. The chicks will walk over the stones and drink without even wetting their feet. It is necessary of course to wash out the vessel occasionally.

A third kind of trough which I have found most useful and entirely suitable when a large number of chicks are using it, is made in the following way:—Take a well seasoned and planed deal board of one inch in thickness and make a rectangular box 36 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 or 5 inches high (inside measure). Make it water tight and lay on two coats of paint. Then cut a piece of board 35½ inches long, 11½ inches wide, and one inch thick, and bore through it a dozen or a score of holes one and one-half inches in diameter. Fill the box with water and lay the piece of board on the water. It floats, and the chicks can stand on it and drink through the holes without danger.

It is of first importance that drinking water shall be supplied—always fresh and pure—and that it shall not be allowed to get foul in the vessels. It is, consequently, necessary to keep the fountains and troughs clean by frequent and regular scouring, and it is also advisable to stand the water in a cool shaded place. Sun warmed water is not the thing, for it is often a hotbed for millions of microbes, harmless perhaps, but injurious in many cases. Too much care cannot be taken with the watering arrangements, especially when the weather is warm, for more often than is generally supposed disease is generated and spread through the medium of drinking water.

In this connection I will say that I have found wooden troughs not so easily kept clean as those of metal or vessels made of stone or earthenware, and for this reason I am in favor of using the latter in preference to wood. I believe also that water keeps cooler in a stone trough than in any other kind of vessel, and at certain seasons this is a consideration.

What to Feed Growing Chicks, and How to Feed It.

In further reference to the most important question of what to feed and how to feed it, I am in a position to give advice which should be of help to raisers of chickens, because my lessons in chicken raising have been learned not from books, but from many years practical experience on a poultry farm, where I raised not less than five thousand head of young stock a year, consisting of chicks, turkey poults, ducklings and goslings. Let it be clearly understood that I am not speaking now of the business of rearing chicks in large broiler plants, but of chicken rearing on farms. One point which must be borne in mind is that the chicks must not only be started well in the manner I have described in the first portion of this article, but also that they must be kept growing all the time by the judicious use of growth promoting foods.

After the first week's growth I discontinue the use of eggs as chick food as I consider them rather expensive and unnecessary after that time, unless I have any infertile eggs tested out which I do not require for younger chicks. I also find it not necessary to feed so often, and as a rule the chicks are fed only four or five times a day between the ages of one and four weeks. The food during this time consists mainly of dry stuffs. The first feed in the morning is fed soon after sunrise, and is a rather dry warm mash made of curd and whey, boiled rice, oatmeal, wheat meal, chopped green stuff, and a small quantity of cut green bone or lean meat. This is the only

mash I feed for the day. The subsequent feeds consist of rolled oats, cracked corn, barley and wheat, oatmeal cuttings, millet seed, with of course, an abundant supply of green food and milk.

From the age of four weeks to four months the number of feeds per day is reduced to three—morning, noon and evening—but there is very little change in the quality of the food. The millet seed and cuttings are dispensed with, and when the chicks are able to take whole wheat and other grain I let them have it occasionally, although I consider it more economical to feed chiefly on cracked or ground grains. The chicks relish these in a dry state with plenty of milk to wash them down.

When mashes are fed I believe it is beneficial to have them cooked or steamed. A very good cooked mash can be made by mixing such nitrogenous foods as milk, wheat meal, oatmeal, meat scraps, clover meal, (or clover leaves) etc., and plugging them in a closely covered pot or cooker, on a part of the stove or range which is not too hot, and leaving them there from one meal time to the next.

The Time of Weaning and After.

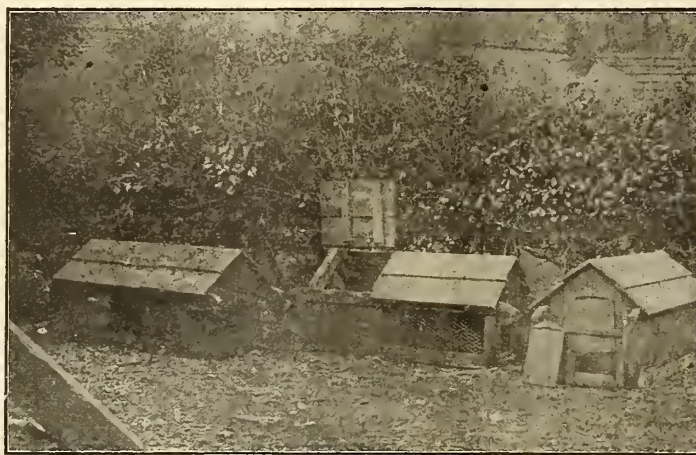
It is not advisable to wean chickens until the hen deserts them and drives them from her of her own accord. She does not do this until she is about to resume laying as a general rule, but frequently a hen will stay with her chicks for two or three weeks after she has recommenced laying. It is quite impossible to say at what age chickens are weaned for the reason that they are weaned at all ages, and the occurrence depends on the temperament of the mother hen. They may

be young enough to still remain in the coops when the mother has forsaken them, or they may be old enough to require a change to larger quarters or to a roost. One thing certain is that chickens require a great deal of special care when they are weaned, and if this care is not extended to them many will be lost. If they are fit to go into a small colony house, two or three broods may be put together, but they should be as nearly as possible of one age and one size. The practice of putting too many together is not commendable, but I have found that twenty-five or thirty chicks make a flock of convenient size, neither too large nor too small for economical handling. I would not let them roost on perches until about three months old, and even this is too soon for Asiatics. My system is to keep the floor of the house well bedded with dry straw, and let the chicks rest on it until they are old enough to go on perches without injuring their breast bones.

Regarding the Chicks' Most Powerful Foe—Insect Vermin.

I do not think the concluding paragraph of this article is the most suitable place I could find for a treatise on the multitudinous shapes and forms, and breeds and habits of insect pests which infest fowls and fowl houses, but I will say that the poultry keeper has no enemy more powerful than insect vermin, and that if he has not made up his mind to fight against these with all his might he will not be a successful poultry keeper, nor has he any business to call himself a poultry keeper. With such a man poultry keeping is all make believe—nothing more.

H. DE COURCY.



Mr. de Courcy's Chicken Coop and Run.

The picture is from a photograph of a group of these coops in an Irish roadside nook.

About Adapting Poultrykeeping to a Location and Locating Poultry Plants

OUR headline indicates the natural division of the question of location in poultry keeping. Some people, the greater number, have locations, facilities, etc., which they wish to utilize in poultry keeping. Others, not so many in number, but as a rule individually having greater financial interests at stake, are looking for locations adapted to certain lines of poultry culture.

Fowls can be kept almost anywhere that people can live. They cannot, however, be kept with the same ease, comfort, satisfaction, or profit in all places. Under some conditions fowls must be cared for much as house plants are. I would not want to have to keep fowls that way. Yet if it were a question of keeping a few fowls that way or having nothing of the kind about, I suppose I would keep fowls. But in that case I certainly would keep hantams, for while they enjoy liberty as much as any fowls, the mature birds seem to be contented and happy in circumstances not at all favorable to average larger fowls. This is perhaps because hantams generally like to be petted, and, if given a little attention, become quite companionable. I think it will be found a nearly general rule that individual birds that seem to like the society of their owner or attendant will do well where shy and wild birds would not. We see something of this difference on a broad scale in making comparisons of breeds, but the differences in individual birds are much more striking than breed differences in this respect.

Not often will one who has not room enough to give a few fowls a grass run get results that are at all satisfactory from his poultry, except at an expenditure of attention and labor quite out of proportion to the financial value of the best possible results of his poultry keeping. For such the question of location has little interest, because for them it is such a little question. The possibilities of their location are too limited to call for much study.

But as room for fowls increases, the question how to use it to best advantage becomes complex and calls for a good deal of study and sometimes a little experimenting before a satis-

factory solution is reached. Beginners are frequently led astray in their judgment as to what may be done in a particular location because some faults of location develop the results due to them quite slowly, or only at particular seasons of the year, or in exceptional seasons.

The most desirable soil for poultry is a sandy loam. For the site of the poultry house, and for the part of the yard immediately adjoining the house, such a soil with gravel underlying is most desirable. The fault of such soil is that in dry weather it burns out the vegetation on it, and also accumulates and refracts heat, making all the surroundings of the house intensely warm. This drawback can be largely overcome by planting trees or vines to shade the ground near the houses as well as the houses themselves.

A sandy loam with clay subsoil gives a good location for yards. On such soil grass will keep green and growing, and keep the ground cool long after the grass on the soil first described is dried up and the ground throwing back the heat like a city sidewalk. But any considerable mixture of clay with the surface soil is objectionable, for on a clayey soil the droppings either cake on the surface or become incorporated with the soil at the surface, and remain there polluting the ground. A heavy mucky loam is objectionable for the same reason.

It is, of course, possible to keep fowls on any of these soils by paying strict attention to cleanliness, by using deodorizers and disinfectants, and in various ways combating the evils that lurk in them, but they are to be avoided if possible. The general prevalence of soils suitable for easy work with poultry has been one of the chief factors in the pre-eminence of New England in the poultry industry. It is often said that this section is in advance of others because the industry has been longer established here, but that is only part true. Early interest centered here, yet early interest was well distributed, and there are today numerous breeders of different varieties of fowls in other parts of the country who have been breeding fowls quite as long as all but a very few of the New England

breeders, and there has been ample time for other sections to have overtaken or surpassed New England. In my mind the relative ease of poultry culture here is largely responsible for the position this section occupies. This is not said in disparagement of the skill of the breeders. I think that skill has been developed largely because results were so encouraging. If I had to keep fowls on a heavy soil, I think I would be willing to pay well for sand to fill the house floors and to cover the ground to the depth of several inches for at least one or two rods of the yard nearest the house. It is quite customary to use cinders and coal ashes for this purpose. Though better than nothing these are in several ways unsuitable. In the first place the ashes are very dry, and the cinders are both dry and sharp. The feathers and skin of the fowl lose their oil and moisture when in constant contact with ashes and cinders, and fowls wallowing in cinders damage the webs of the feathers sometimes so much as to be quite noticeable. The loss of moisture and oil in the skin and feathers reacts upon the whole system, but its most marked effect is on combs and legs. The comb constantly exposed to ash or alkali dust never has the brilliance or the velvet texture a comb should have, while scaly leg abounds among fowls kept on cinders and ashes.

The site of the poultry house must be dry and well drained. It is better that there should never be stagnant water anywhere near it, but if not too close, such pools while in a degree objectionable will have no noticeably bad results. It is of great importance that before building a poultry house permanently on any special site one should have had opportunity to observe that spot throughout a year, and should have carefully inspected it under different conditions. A few years ago I saw quite an expensive house built well up on a hill side one fall. Everything seemed satisfactory until spring, when water began to bubble up through the ground right in the middle of the floor. Had the owner been familiar with the place he would not have made the mistake he did.

Such features as this are often regarded as of little moment because the trouble does not continue long, and coming at the season when colds and like troubles are rarely very persistent, it is not often marked by pronounced bad effects. That view of the case is wrong. Unfavorable conditions at that time have a tendency to detract from results in breeding. They lower the vitality of the fowls, and too often the very impossibility of keeping the premises right operates to keep the attendant from giving the usual good care. It is best always to avoid everything that could interfere with the system and routine of work established whether for a single flock or for a large plant.

Persons who have not had experience with ducks and geese often imagine that wet swampy ground is just the place for



A Prize White Rock Pullet.
E. F. Conness, Mattapan, Mass.

them. It is—provided they are not confined to it. They want dry well drained places, yards and houses to which to go when tired of the water. Both delight in marshy ground with little dry knolls or hummocks dispersed through it. Such ground by the way makes quite an ideal place for summer quarters for old hens.

The matter of choosing a location for poultry may be very much simplified if poultry keeping is to be combined with something else, as fruit growing, gardening or general farming. When land is to be used only for poultry the practice is to locate houses permanently, to make permanent yards, and to make no effective provision for thorough and effective puri-

fication of the soil. As has been indicated there are situations—many of them throughout southern New England—where the character of the soil and the natural drainage combine to postpone for a long time the bad results which rarely fail to follow failure to rotate poultry with other crops. But the area of land required for a large stock of poultry is considerable, and in exclusive poultry keeping it is very rare to find the farm occupied of such extent and character that it is possible to shift the whole plant to new land at frequent intervals. That is what ought to be done if uniform good results are expected. How large a part new clean land plays in the success of the poultry keeper may be inferred from the large number of cases of poultry keepers who are more successful when unskilled on new land than on the same land after several seasons occupancy, though in that time their skill has been very much increased.

The matter of location with reference to supplies and markets is each year becoming of less importance. Poultrymen are becoming less and less dependent upon the grain dealer, while the increase of storage facilities and the improvements in methods of transportation bring the markets nearer. If one has or can secure on favorable terms a good location near a community where a large house to house trade might be developed I wouldn't want to be the one to advise him not to do it, for we cannot all think alike about these things, and perhaps personal adaptability has something to do with our way of looking at such matters. But after a good many years spent in building up a family trade which took all I could produce, I came to the conclusion that I would have been much better off to have given all my time and attention to production and sold what I had to sell at wholesale. I kept the family trade as long as I remained in the business, but would never undertake to build one up again, except perhaps in connection with other necessities which would give one a line of goods which would enable him to make good sales to average customers.

The question of when to specialize and when to try diversified lines is one that cannot be wisely decided on general lines or principles. One must be governed by circumstances, and by conditions—as they arise. I always feel sorry for the man who plans that he will limit himself to such and such lines or such and such methods in poultry keeping. Nearly always the result is that he tries to adhere to his plan for some time after the trend of events has indicated better ways. There are a good many people in the poultry business today who would be immensely benefited by some sort of accident—of the kind we occasionally see reported—that would leave the past a blank in their minds and put them in mental position to deal with conditions as they find them unbiased by cherished plans that do not fit their circumstances.

A Cheap Brooder and Colony House Combined

THERE is a great variety of advice offered people who are casting about for the best device in which to rear their expected broods of chickens, varying in degree from the use of a soap box back of the kitchen fire to the most elaborate, so-called, "out door brooder," with a bewildering number of "talking points" and a heating system which would do credit to the mansion of a multi-millionaire. Some will advise making your own brooder and applying the saving effected at some other point in your poultry expenditures, while on the other hand, many will contend that it is necessary for good results to purchase the this or that brooder, and only that one if you expect to succeed.

We have taken the advice of the man who says make your own, and conclude that where one has the time and inclination to do this work, and it may be done at odd moments, a perfectly successful machine may be produced, and a very large saving effected.

On the question of ventilation in brooders a vast amount of "hot air," figuratively speaking, has been expended, chiefly on the point of "indirect radiation," and referring to the introduction of pure air under the hover through ducts leading from without the machine, all of which means a vastly greater expenditure of oil to heat this air than in our method of ventilating the hover from the

brooder chamber, introducing the fresh air under and through the flaps as in the case of the pipe brooder system.

Experiment has proved to our satisfaction that this method gives as good results as the other at a saving for oil and a simplification of the heating system, enabling the amateur carpenter to construct his own heating apparatus.



Fig. 1. Mr. Pattison's Combined Brooder and Colony House.

Herewith are given description and cuts of our latest brooder, and while we make no claim for originality in general design, the arrangement in detail is ours, and we believe that here is a brooder combined with a colony rearing house 3 x 8 ft. which can be produced for one-quarter the amount that an equally satisfactory outfit from a manufacturer will cost.

The house illustrated (Fig. 1) is 3 x 8 ft. ground dimensions, 2 ft. in height at the rear, and 3 ft. at the front. The four sides and roof are built separately, using one inch boards for sheathing, and afterwards fastened together at the corners with screws in the case of the sides, and with hooks to hold on the roof.

No floor is provided except the removable brooder floor. The exercising room may be filled in with sand or dry earth nearly to the level of the brooder floor. The sectional feature is greatly appreciated when moving or storing them away for winter.

We use wide boards for sides with batten on inside, and ordinary boards for roof, as that is covered with building paper. The doors are ample in size, making all parts of the interior readily accessible to the operator without entering the house. The brooder chamber occupies a space 3 ft. sq. at one end of house, leaving an exercising room 3 x 5 ft. The partition forming inside wall of brooder

chamber slides in between grooves, and is removed after brooding, as is the brooder floor and parts converting the interior into a rearing coop 3 x 8 ft., in which may be placed two 8 ft. roosts. This provides ample quarters to carry the pullets of the brood to laying maturity. Around the walls of the brooder chamber 10 in. from the ground are nailed cleats on which the brooder floor rests.

By reference to Figs. 2 and 3, the interior arrangement of the brooder will be seen. A similar heating plan has already been described in F. P., Oct. 15, 1903. A hole 12 in. square is cut in center of brooder floor in which heater is placed. The heater is prevented from falling through hole by strips of wood nailed around under edge of hole. The heater is a rectangular tin box 12 in. square by 6 in. high, and is made by tacking sheet tin on wooden frame. A sheet of tin about 9 in. square (the deflector) is fastened inside top of heater by bending corners and riveting through top, which prevents heat from passing directly out of exhaust pipe, but must first go to sides of box and around edges of deflector. To the top of heater is soldered a pipe about 3 in. long and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter, over which telescopes the exhaust pipe which is made of inch speaking tube with elbow. This arrangement enables the lamp exhaust tube to be readily removed when lifting the hover board.

The hover board is 2 ft. square with one inch hole in center for $\frac{3}{4}$ in. pipe of heater top to pass through. To edges of this board is tacked the hover cloth, which is slit up about every three inches, and does not reach the floor by about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, which enables the proper amount of oxygen to enter the

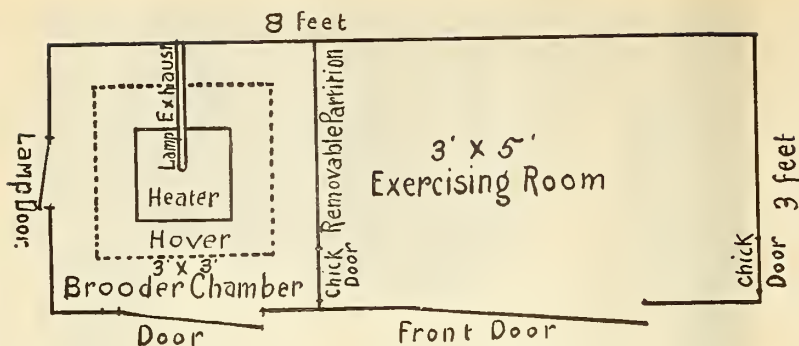


Fig. 2.

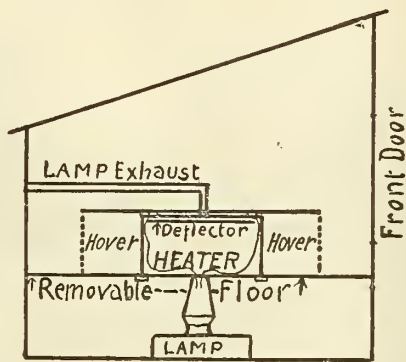


Fig. 3.

Cross Section and Floor Plan of Mr. Pattison's House.

hover for the chicks. The sides of heater should be protected by having a single thickness of cloth sewed around it 3 inches up to prevent chickens coming in direct contact with tin. The chicks have a space under the hover six inches wide all around the heater which gives accommodations for a large number, and no crowding is possible, as they could only crowd around corners of the heater and away from the heat.

The lamp is inserted through small door in end of house and is slid in on a board provided with a wooden stop which brings lamp under center of heater, which has a hole three inches

in diameter in bottom under which lamp chimney sits. Any form of brooder lamp may be used; a half-inch wick will furnish sufficient heat for any ordinary circumstances, and as the lamp occupies the entire under part of brooder chamber a water pan lamp is not essential. We have seen one made by soldering a sheet of tin on top of a pan, inserting an ordinary cheap burner, and a lamp produced (with metal chimney) for about twenty-five cents which worked satisfactorily.

Ventilation is secured by a small opening in center of brooder end of house closing with a slide, a larger opening at top of partition between brooder and exercising room, and a still larger ventilator in end of house opposite brooder. By proper manipulation of ventilators heat will blow in direction of exercising room and out at that end of building. Chick doors should be provided through partition and at end of house opposite brooder.

With materials at prices prevailing in this locality this house complete should be produced for a material cost of four dollars.

West Kennebunk, Maine.

J. C. PATTISON.

Letters From a Superannuated Poultryman

To a New Breeder Who Asked His Opinion of the Hatching Eggs Trade.

MY dear Sir:—I wish you had left out the last part of your question. I can cheerfully give you my opinion of the "eggs for hatching" part of the business, but when it comes to giving reasons for the same I feel more like keeping still.

At different periods in my life I have held different views about the sale of eggs for hatching. That which I entertain at present I have been faithful to for over fifteen years—except sometimes for a day or two when reports of poor hatches were coming in faster than the others—so I begin to feel quite sure that my mind is made up finally on this (to the fancier) all important question; but the more I think of the reasons which brought me to this opinion the more loth I am to tackle the job of telling why I believe selling eggs for hatching ought to be a part of the business of every fancier.

It isn't that I am in any way sensitive about what people will think or say of my reasons. I am past all that. But when one feels that he has been appealed to as an authority for an opinion or advice he likes to think that his opinion is going to carry weight, and that his advice will be followed, particularly in a matter like this, and I am conscious that the pros and cons are so nearly balanced that unless I evade a fair statement of the question and give only the reasons that favor my view I may convince a good many of just the opposite of what I want to. It was because in my mind the question was and is still so evenly balanced that for years I inclined now to one side and now to the other of the question:—to sell, or not to sell eggs for hatching.

I believe that every breeder ought to sell them. Sometimes I almost believe that every breeder ought to buy some eggs for hatching every season.

That a good many things happen in connection with this branch of the business that we would rather not have happen I know. I've had my full share of them, and they made me stop selling eggs for awhile. I began again "on general principles," because I saw that the things that happened when some people didn't sell eggs were worse for the business than all the bad features of the eggs for hatching trade.

Here is an illustration. It isn't an imaginary one, either. It's from life, and though I don't mention any names I guess a good many could supply them. There is a certain variety of fowls in which a certain breeder has for many years been at the top of the heap—in a class all by himself as far as winning prizes go. He shows nice birds in nice condition. They have their faults, but faults and all, they have been the style so long that for a judge to put a prize anywhere else as long as one of these birds is not placed is almost unheard of. Judges do it only when another bird in the competition is so superior that for the moment the judge is jarred out of the usual routine of putting the ribbons on all specimens of the "marvelous strain" first. One judge that I know pretty well admitted to me once that after hanging a blue ribbon on the coop of an outsider it took him several days to get over feeling that perhaps he had made a mistake.

This was the way it was in the section where this breeder exhibited. I used to think he had the judges all hypnotized. In other places it was different. He sold birds at big prices

to go to shows in other parts of the country, and they would go there and get awfully licked by locally grown birds. This didn't happen only once in a while. It was, judging from what I heard, the usual thing. The result was that the persons who bought the birds concluded that Mr. Uptop Breeder had soaked them, and people who saw them, or learned how they fared, put Mr. U. Breeder down as one of the chief "fakirs" in the business. As for Mr. U. Breeder, the effect on him was no secret. The people who didn't appreciate his birds—judges and all—were a lot of ignoramuses, and every time one of his high priced exhibition birds got beaten, his opinion of other stock and other breeders was pushed down a peg, while his opinion of his own stock and himself went up about two or three notches.

Taking everything together the situation got pretty bad all round, and kept continually moving from bad to worse. It seems to me to be about as bad as it can be now, but I don't feel sure that worse is not to come, for I thought the same when it was not near as bad as it is now. The interest in the breed isn't dead, but the signs of life are so faint, and appear so irregularly that a good many think the breed is a sure enough "has been."

Where does the question of selling eggs for hatching come in? Right here. Mr. Uptop Breeder would not sell eggs for hatching. He wanted to have a clutch on all the prizes whenever he exhibited. No one ever was able to buy from him for a few dollars the chance to produce a crackerjack, or to beat him in the show room. I guess he thought he was wise "beyond what is written," and so much smarter than all other breeders, but all the time he was killing interest in the breed, and simply throwing away the possibilities contained in his winnings. He wasn't a professional breeder; didn't need the money that might be made by working his stock and his winnings as a fancier to whom poultry culture was a business would have done. I suppose he thought that because he wasn't a "professional," and wasn't making any money out of the fancy that he was doing lots of good just by being a burning and shining light to the rest of us, showing us how it all ought to be done, etc. A good many others look at the non-professional fancier the same way. I don't know but that it is the general opinion that the professionals are a lot of cut-throats and robbers, in the business only for what they can make out of it; and that all that keeps it even passably respectable is the non-professional fancier who breeds fowls only for love of them. Well, perhaps I am prejudiced. I have had to see things mostly from the professional's point of view. But from that point of view your genuine true blue fancier, the one who is in it only for his love of the fancy, is all right as long as he keeps his interests at home, but when he tries to shine in exhibitions and elsewhere among poultrymen I consider him an evil. Of course this isn't the usual view. It is the custom for these really truly fanciers to talk of themselves as the leaven of the whole business, and they seem to have succeeded in making most other people consider them in the same light. They think that because they are not making any money out of the "fancy" they are in it on a higher level than the man who works his winnings for all the advertising possible, and gets all he can out of it. It isn't easy to see that they are wrong about this either, until you consider cases like the one just described. Then you see it.

The poultry business is a mixture of business and recreation, of plain business and pastime, of legitimate industry and

legitimate gaming—not gambling. Showing poultry is a game in which the features of the game have effects on matters outside of the show. It is also a game in which the interest of the game depends a great deal on evenly matched competition. The egg trade is the greatest thing that ever happened to make the game popular and profitable to those who work it right, and without the egg trade the interest would fall off all round.

The sale of eggs for hatching isn't all pleasant. I admit that, but I think it better to put up with the unpleasant side of it than to drop it. To be sure it doesn't make much difference if only one breeder here and there quits selling eggs—except in a case like that I used for an illustration.

There Mr. Uptop Breeder had all the ribbons nailed to his coops before the show, because as long as his type was winning, and he had the first chance to pick every bird hatched from his line of stock, there wasn't much inducement to anyone to play the game with him. Showing under such circumstances is simply sacrificing everyone else to the man with a monopoly on the winning type. Men may come out and help swell the classes, and increase the honors of the leader a few times, but they soon get tired and quit. After that it usually takes only a few seasons to show a falling off in the quality of his birds.

I look on an egg trade honestly conducted as something in the nature of a handicap on the most skillful breeders. We can't handicap them in the show rooms, but they can handicap themselves outside, and it is policy for them to do it and to be honest and fair in doing it. What the lesser lights do or don't do doesn't make so much difference, but it seems to me that it is better for all to act on the rule that helps to equalize competition and offers inducements to novices to persevere though beaten. As long as a fellow thinks he has a show to win his courage is good, and he shows good judgment in buying good stock, doing his best to breed it, and showing it wherever it is worth while to win, but only a fool will go on doing these things year after year when it is a foregone conclusion that his string will be up against a better one, or one that the judge likes better, which in the show room amounts to the same thing.

So I say, long live the trade in eggs for hatching. Not to sell eggs may be for awhile more agreeable and more paying to the individual, but for all to sell eggs is better for all, and better for the business.

It's just the same way with distributing stock as it is with distributing information. I never had any use for the poultrymen who had secrets they kept to themselves. To begin with, I thought most of them simply said they had secrets about certain things to give people ideas of their great knowledge. Then I have a good many times been told such secrets and been amused to find that they were either not new or not important. Lastly, I don't believe in being greedy about the little bits of knowledge we may acquire.

When a man has an idea and tells it, someone else takes it up, adds to it and improves it, and all, including the originator, are benefited. When a man distributes his good stock freely the same thing happens. A valuable specimen goes into hands that can develop it better than he can. Naturally, he feels some pride because it is his stock, and some sore because the other fellow made the strike with it, but if he is sane and reasonable he takes it philosophically and still keeps working and waiting for his own opportunity.

Take away the egg trade and you will take the poor man out of the poultry fancy. It handicaps the long pocketbook just as it handicaps exceptional skill. It makes the poultry fraternity thoroughly democratic. Without it the poultry fancy would be likely to become the sport of rich men who had money to buy men and the business of fanciers who had skill to breed them. It would run in narrow lines, and would soon play out.

The egg trade was a natural development. It is not all that it might be, but that its evils can be remedied better by all the honest breeders selling eggs "on the square," and altogether trying to work the bad features out, than by those who don't like the bad things about it refusing to play that part of the game, is the firm conviction of

DANIEL DUCKWING.

The Right Kind of Pigeons for Squab Breeders

[Copyrighted 1904 by Wm. E. Rice].

SO MANY who are anxious to make money raising squabs are buying birds and getting so badly disappointed (or deceived) in their purchases that a few words as to kind of stock and how to buy it will be appropriate in this article.

I will quote extracts from a few letters to reveal the difficulty and its extent, and then state how I think such disasters may positively be avoided.

No. 1.

Schoolcraft, Mich., March 16, 1904.

"... I made a good house and flying pen, and then bought of — 25 pairs of Homers, paying \$33 for them. He represented these birds to be pure mated working Homers. I bought them in October, and only four pairs have shown any disposition to nest, and out of this I have only two little birds."

This correspondent stated that she had given good feed, and her details of management seemed to be all right, and in a second letter, dated April 22d, states that "one pair has laid a number of eggs, and has hatched none. She sits long enough and faithfully, but after a while she throws one egg on the floor with shell partly broken, disclosing a half hatched bird. The man who sold the birds says he cannot account for their not working, and insists that they are young birds and mated."

No. 2.

Colon, Mich., April 14, 1904.

"I started in the 'business' a year ago last November, with 200 birds which I bought of —, paying \$2.50 a pair for mated birds, but to my great disappointment I found that none of them were mated, and my start has been slow. ... Are you ever troubled with the little birds hatching or pipping the shell before they are fully matured, and dying? This has been my greatest difficulty, and I have not been able to overcome it."

No. 3.

Roxbury, Conn., March 11, 1904.

"I bought 25 pairs of selected mated Homer pigeons of — last September. A few of them had bands on their legs. They did not lay until January, when I got one pair of squabs. About three weeks ago two pairs hatched one squab each; about two weeks ago another pair hatched a pair of squabs, and since then two or three hens have laid. My trouble is, this is all the return I have got since last September."

No. 4.

Ridgefield, Wash., March 1, 1904.

"I bought a part of a flock of 300 pairs from —, and paid a staggering price for them, too. I got a staggering bargain. I received them in December, put them in a good warm house, and took good care of them. Today I have one squab a week old, and three new nests, but no eggs yet. I believe they were a lot of 'pick ups,' and unmated."

No. 5.

Newbury, Vt., Feb. 29, 1904.

"... The birds were obtained from two different sources — 75 pairs from —, and 75 pairs from —, at a cost of 90c. and \$1 per pair respectively. I have had them now six months, and not more than thirty per cent have mated, and no pair has succeeded in raising two squabs yet, the weakling invariably dying within a week. I feed principally cracked corn and red wheat, with frequently Kaffir corn, bulled oats, and millet."

These extracts are unfortunately but a few of the very many I am receiving, all complaining bitterly of having bought birds which were represented to them as mated birds, but which were not mated and refused to mate, and instead of being profitable are a source of expense. This business looks to me too much like disposing of goods under false pretense, and I think it is time that a definition ought to be made of what constitutes mated birds.

Right here let me state that a gentleman in Greenfield, N. H., wrote, asking my advice about starting in the squab business, and I told him not to buy birds unless he could get a written guarantee that they were mated, and a list showing which the pairs were, and he would save himself a great deal of disappointment and much loss. He sent me a subsequent letter from which I extract the following:

"I wrote to several large advertisers who offer mated Homers, and find some dealers fight shy of details or guarantees. Some say mating commonly means in sales one-half cocks and one-half hens, and that I ought to do the mating for best results."

Birds which are mated and produce squabs unprofitable to the buyer, while unmated birds which go month after month without mating, eat feed all the time, and are a constant bill of expense.

Now to return to a definition of mated birds. I claim that

from the squab breeder's view point, inasmuch as he is the man who has to pay the expense of keeping the birds, a pair of birds are not profitably mated until they produce marketable squabs, and in sufficient quantity to leave a margin above cost of feed. My definition of mated pigeons is this: *A mated pair of pigeons consists of a male and a female which have built a nest, laid eggs, and hatched a pair of squabs which are fit for market in four weeks from the time of hatching.*

If for any reason a pair of birds, in the process of squab raising, fail to rear plump squabs fit for market, they are not profitable to the owner, however profitable they may have been to a dealer to sell.

If a pair of birds are faithfully mated, make nest, lay eggs, and the eggs pip, but the little squab has not sufficient vitality to burst the shell, and dies "aborning," that pair of birds is not profitable to the squab breeder, however profitable it may have been to the seller.

If a pair of birds is honestly mated, and lays eggs, but

be provided with a list for his guidance showing which birds are mated. If the seller has no such record and cannot give any intelligent information about the birds, the buyer is foolish to pay much price for such nondescripts, for he can get plenty in the open markets for less than 75 cents a pair. The beginner wants first class birds, strong, healthy, and ready to rear squabs for market.

A few questions before purchasing may be the means of saving much money and disappointment. Let the buyer ask the following questions:—How old are the birds? Are they Homers? Are they inbred? How many squabs did they send to market last year? Did the eggs pip and fall to hatch? Did the squabs die a few days after hatching? Are the birds good feeders? Have they any disease?

If the buyer does not get satisfactory answers to his questions his safety lies in letting the birds alone. The squab business is all right for those who will use common sense in buying and not be gulled into parting with their money without getting what is necessary for success. Let the buyer purchase Homer stock, for it is conceded by all to be the best stock known today, and let this stock be strong, vigorous, healthy, and not inbred.

Every farmer knows that like produces like, and if he has poor seed corn or potatoes his harvest will not be full crop. So in breeding horses and cows; great care is taken to select strong vigorous sires and dams of excellent qualities. In squab breeding these settled principles cannot be ignored by the man who would keep pigeons for profit. If the stock is old or diseased, or lacks vigor or produces infertile eggs, or does not hatch vigorous squabs which will live to be marketable size, or are not good feeders, and especially if they are not mated, all such stock is to be avoided. "But," says an intending purchaser, "how can I know these things?" The only and very simple way is to ask questions and get a written guarantee that the birds shall be as represented, and if you cannot get what you want at the first shop go to another until you do find what you want. If you want a lot of birds that the dealer knows nothing about, and which you will have to experiment with until they get ready to produce squabs, pay a small price for them. If you ask these questions and the dealer says, "There are the birds, your eyes are your market," keep your money and let him keep his birds.

Now let us see the difference between haphazard and intelligent purchasing.

The Ridgefield, Washington, correspondent (extract No. 4) acting on my advice, purchased a few pairs of birds under a written guarantee that the birds were mated, and with a list showing which birds were thus paired. The birds were shipped all the way across the continent, 3,000 miles, and reached him on the 17th of March. One died on the journey, and one pair he wished to mate in a different way, and of the remaining ten pairs he wrote April 8th as follows:—"Today in less than two weeks after the time they went into permanent breeding quarters every pair has built a nest, and has two eggs except one, and the hen there is ready to lay." And on the 18th of April wrote: "I have four squabs and two piped eggs," and was well pleased with his purchase.

I had another visit from uncle Billy last week. I saw him coming down the street, and his face was lighted up—shining like a lighthouse in a fog. He strode up, clapped his hand on my shoulder, and said:

"I'm all right now."

"What you been doing now?"

"Sold my pigeons—the whole bunch."

"Well, that's the only thing you could do."

"Yes, and I bought some more. I am not going to give up skunked that way."

"How is the new lot doing?"

"All right; sold a lot of squabs last week, and it wasn't the first lot either."

"Do you think you will let them inbreed and raise a lot of youngsters to do as before?"

"No, sir; I've got those birds all banded, and when I want to raise youngsters I shall band them in the nest, and know what I am doing."

Uncle Billy turned to go as he shook my hand, and then stopped, and turning around said: "Say, come up and take a look at this lot of birds; you will find cleaner quarters than you did before."

WM. E. RICE.

A chicken lived; a chicken died;
His drumsticks and his wings were fried;
His feathers by a dealer dried,
And very shortly after dyed,
Soul he had none. Admitting that,
How comes it then, upon her hat,
His plumes—a mortal chicken's—rise
A glorious bird of paradise.

—Exchange.



A Good Picture of a Good White Wyandotte Pullet.

month after month these eggs do not hatch, but are infertile, that pair of birds is a bill of expense, and the man who sold that pair of birds, if he knew anything about the birds, knew it at the time of sale.

When birds are picked up from different parts of the country, shipped to another point, and then reshipped to the purchaser, I don't know how the last dealer can know much about them. In fact, I know that 2,500 pairs of birds were shipped from my own city last year, and the shipper merely tried to pick out cocks and hens, and many of the birds came to him from Baltimore.

Another dealer in Philadelphia told me last week that he shipped 2,000 pairs to a dealer last year. I asked his price for guaranteed mated birds, and he said, "I do not sell birds that way; your eyes are your market; take them or leave them, just as you please." Now these lots of 2,500 pairs and the 2,000 pairs went to the same dealer, and I do not presume his knowledge of whether the birds were mated, whether they had been badly inbred, or whether they were fertile or not was any more than the knowledge of the men who furnished the birds. But I can see that if these birds were bought at, say, \$1 a pair, and sold at \$2 or \$2.50 per pair, there was a heap of profit in the transaction that was possibly as big as the heap of disappointment of the purchasers. This method of selling birds is bringing the business into needless disrepute, and I sometimes fancy that these large advertisers who claim such large profits in squab raising, are making more money selling birds than they could make raising squabs.

The purchaser who buys birds represented to be mated has a right to expect that they have actually been mated, and will prove it by going to work and rearing squabs, and he ought to

Editorial Page of Farm - Poultry

The Buyer and Seller Question Again.

A PERSONAL letter from a friend who has recently begun selling high class poultry brings out one of the things poultrymen have to contend with so well that we take the liberty of publishing that part of it which relates to a subject discussed in these columns two weeks ago. He writes:—

"Your article, 'To Sellers and Buyers of Eggs and Fowls,' in the May 1st issue calls to mind a little experience I had with a customer. He wanted a dark Buff Rock cockerel, and it happened that I had only one of the required shade, which was a bird hatched June 1st, and a bird I had intended to show, feeling certain he would win, but unfortunately he was slow in attaining his growth, and was not up to weight when show season came round, and as he had grown and developed when I received this luxury I concluded to put a price on him and sell him, as we had our breeding pens all mated and did not need him. I priced him at \$10, feeling at the time it was too cheap, and the party took him.

"Not hearing anything from him I wrote him about six weeks after I sent the bird, and asked him how he was suited, and had a reply from him stating that the cockerel was not at all satisfactory, and only fit to kill. I answered this by telling him that if he would return the bird that I would return his \$10, and pay the express, although he had used the bird to breed from for six weeks. This was a month ago, and I have not received the bird, or heard a word from him. Now my catalogue states that all stock sold can be returned if not as represented, and money and express charges refunded. Why did he not return the bird at once if it did not suit him? It was early (very early) in the season, and he could easily have purchased another in a few days elsewhere.

"Then, finally, why did he not return the bird later on when I requested him to do so? I don't understand his way of doing business, and have set him down as a 'chronic kicker.' I am very anxious to please my customers, and have felt that it was a good advertisement to have them all satisfied. I think a few more cases like this one, however, will make me feel that my obligation ceases when I have filled a customer's order honestly and to the best of my ability, and that those who are not satisfied can kick in vain."

We fear a good many poultrymen have adopted the policy toward which our friend seems to be drifting, and we think it is a mistaken policy. In this case possibly the seeming eagerness of the seller to recover the bird brought the buyer to the conclusion that he had been mistaken in his judgment of it.

However, it makes no difference how many such cases occur, the seller of fine fowls is not justified in ignoring complaints from customers—not even when these are exasperating in tone and contents. He is no more justified in such a course than he is required to do whatever the customer may think ought to be done to make matters right. The proper course to pursue is to investigate, to get at the facts and then to act according to the facts and to ordinary principles of fair dealing.

No one can afford to ignore complaints of this kind. It is not in the first place a question of honesty or dishonesty. The question first of all is whether a mistake has been made. In case of eggs for hatching it is sometimes a question as to whether the eggs of which complaint is made are the eggs shipped by the seller. There have been a good many instances where it appeared certain that eggs had been changed in transit. There have also been a few cases reported where it seemed that birds might have been changed in transit, but such are extremely rare.

If it is found that there is no mistake, but disagreement about the terms of the order or the manner of filling it, the best way to adjust the matter, as things are at present, is to leave it to some third party. Ultimately we shall probably have a code of rules governing transactions in stock for breeding and exhibition and eggs for hatching. If we had a general poultry association that had any broad conception of the services it ought to render poultrymen and any real authority over them it could take hold of this matter effectively, and within a very short time put the "fancy" poultry business on a very much more satisfactory basis. Such a movement would almost certainly result in a general increase of sales, for there is much reason to believe that the present volume of sales is a great deal smaller than it would be were not so many buyers fearful that they would not get fair treatment.

As we have said again and again, we believe that most sellers mean to be honest and fair, and that on the whole they are, but it takes only an instance here and there of disregard of reasonable complaints to create the impression in a great many minds that some particular breeder, or breeders in general, are quite unmindful of the interests or rights of the customer once his money is in their possession.

Specialties for Poultry Breeders.

THE time is rapidly coming when the poultry business of this country is going to be done by quite different methods from those at present prevailing. It is not our purpose here to go into the reasons for this or to make any general suggestions. We simply wish to call attention to one thing. In a recent issue of this paper are two illustrations of the pheasant plant of a young lady in one of the suburbs of Boston, who is rapidly building up a large business in this line because she is very successful in growing pheasants, and finds a good and steadily increasing demand for them.

There is a growing demand for ornamental and rare varieties of fowls to be placed as landscape features in public parks and on fine estates, and it is a demand that poultrymen should prepare to meet, not necessarily by going into any particular kind of fowls on a large scale, but by making use of any opportunity afforded them to produce some of the things in special demand such as pea fowl, swans, fancy water fowl, white guineas, etc. The people who are fitting up fine estates want old, beautiful and novel fowl features for them, as well as rare plants and shrubs, and the trade in them will be profitable when properly organized.

The time is coming when there will be probably developed from conditions already existing, certain places which are headquarters for buyers of all kinds of stock of the classes alluded to above. These places will not produce, but they will buy and sell; they will be middlemen. A good many of these specialties can be best produced in limited numbers, each producer growing only a few each season. Under such circumstances the producer generally cannot afford to advertise what he has to sell in the mediums that will reach the best buyers, because his product is too small, but with the right kind of an agency collecting and distributing such stock the business would rapidly develop to the mutual advantage of all concerned.

Good Methods of Universal Application.

READERS interested in the subject of rearing chicks by natural methods will find our leading article in this issue one of the best that has ever been published on that subject.

They will find its teachings such as may be applied practically anywhere and everywhere. The writer of this article lives in Ireland, and writes from an experience gained in the British Isles; we are not informed whether in Ireland or some other portion of the kingdom. He writes as he would write if writing for English, Scotch, or Irish readers, though this article was written for an American publication. Yet it would puzzle anyone to point out wherein this information is inapplicable to American conditions. Not every poultry keeper here would find each and all of the ways of doing things described by Mr. de Courcy the most suitable for his circumstances, but that would be because of individual, not because of territorial differences in conditions.

So it is with different parts of our own country. Persons living in other sections to whom samples of this paper are sent, frequently write us that they liked the sample very much and would take the paper, but being published so far away the information it contains does not apply to conditions as they find them. Other persons in the same section having taken the paper for years will tell us that they have attained such and such a degree of success—frequently a very creditable one—by following its teachings. Such testimony comes not from any particular section, but from all sections, and from practically every country to which copies of FARM-POULTRY go—and they go wherever the mails go.

Everyone is familiar with the phrase, "principles are eternal." In poultry culture we might well accept such a maxim as "good rules apply everywhere."

The rules do not apply in every instance in just the same way. They do not always apply alike in the same locality for different men or somewhat different purposes, but it is in the power or capacity to modify general rules and adapt them to special conditions or particular cases that intelligent action in poultry culture consists. Again and again we have been amused to find in a poultry paper a special appeal to the poultryman in its territory to support it as the paper published in their territory and in a position to know accurately and cater especially to their needs, and to find on examination of the pages of such a paper that a great part—sometimes nearly all of its special matter was clipped from exchanges, or written by correspondents located elsewhere.

It is natural that most people should prefer to support home industry in poultry papers as in other forms, but no poultry keeper who makes any pretense of studying the subject can make much progress while he confines himself to reading supposed to be especially adapted to the needs of his territory, or to the particular branch of poultry culture in which he is most interested. That kind of concentration results in narrow ideas and in the indefinite perpetuation of local errors. The reader of poultry literature however well pleased or benefited by any paper, needs to travel afield occasionally and see things from other points of view. When he does he finds many things look quite different, and the more he knows of the methods, appliances, etc., in use in different places, of different methods of feeding, different breeds, etc., the more he appreciates what is and what is not essential or best under any given set of circumstances.

Who Originated the White Plymouth Rock?

WE notice that in the April 15 issue of the *N. E. Poultry Journal*, Mr. Abel Stevens, of Wellesley, Mass., claims to have originated the White Plymouth Rock. Mr. Stevens says among other things:

"In the year of 1872, from a special mating of Barred Plymouth Rocks we had four pure white 'sports,' and as good fortune would have it, there was one male and three females—all strong, vigorous birds. Every opportunity for full development of course we gave our 'new sports.' From this quartette I raised the following year forty-three pure 'White Plymouth Rocks'—the first ever seen, and the original parents of the most popular breed today. That fall the original quartette was sold to a southern fancier for \$150. From our original sports we have shipped eggs and stock to every state in the United States, Canada, Cuba, and to Europe, and thus we have disseminated this most beautiful breed all over the world."

All of which may be so. We don't know that it is not, but we do not now recall ever having heard Mr. Stevens' name mentioned as conspicuously identified with the origin of the White Plymouth Rock. If it has been he can doubtless refer us to such mentions. If it has not it would seem to be in order for Mr. Stevens to explain why he comes forward at this time claiming to have originated White Plymouth Rocks some four years before the date Mr. Frost got his first white sports from Barred Rocks.

Better Keep the Lid On.

THE intimation is given out that the executive committee of the A. P. A. will soon be called upon to consider grave charges against members of that association. We don't know who are the persons concerned, or what charges may be made against them. Perhaps we could guess, but we don't want to try.

We do know that the exhibition that the A. P. A. has made of itself, or more properly that persons allowed to be prominent in its affairs during several years past have made of it, is demoralizing to the business, and that with the exception of the parties personally interested in matters which as they become public become scandals, poultrymen everywhere want all this airing of personal grievances and public laundering of soiled linen stopped. They are sick and tired of it.

We believe it is a fair statement of the attitude of poultrymen generally toward the A. P. A. to say that if that association will now quash the bickerings of members, curb grafting propensities, and show that it is making a sincere effort to put the association on a popular and respectable basis, the public will be found ready to help, and not impatient about delays inseparable from the work of reorganization. But if there is to be no let up in the sequence of scandals, not merely the public but the greater body of the present membership will be alienated.

There is nothing to be gained by further exposures of rottenness within the association or of sins of individual members. The events of the last two years have made any additional advertisement of such matters superfluous. People don't care to know any more about what is bad in the association or its members—that is, they want no more details. What they ask now is "works meet for repentance."

Everyone at all familiar with the unwritten history of the association knows that when the members begin to expose each other a good many things are likely to be brought to light which cannot now be remedied, and which it would therefore be much better to let alone. The public doesn't care so much about the past; its interest is in the present and the future. It wants the A. P. A. to do better, and to begin now, and it does not believe that the way to begin is by stirring up more scandals. The charges and counter charges of the past year, and the results which have accompanied and follows are a partial indication of what may be expected when some members begin to put other members out—for that is what is implied in bringing charges against members before the executive committee. There are mighty few men who have been prominent in the affairs of the association of late years who are in a position to throw stones at any of the others with impunity.

As we have said many times, we believe that the faults of members have most often been faults bred by the system rather than faults primarily of the men themselves. The methods of doing A. P. A. business has facilitated the making of mistakes by the men to whom the business of the association was entrusted, and it has been so easy for men to get themselves into positions where it was sometimes a puzzle to decide whether they were working the association for their own interests or working for its interests. Doubtless many of them honestly thought that they were not working the association beyond what was allowable.

A few years ago a certain editor of a western paper, touring New England for the first time, ventured to remark that the trouble with the people down here was that they didn't "hurry their dead." His reference was supposed to be to the continued prominence in poultry circles of numerous old timers. We beg to suggest that the most conspicuous case of failure to make proper disposition of defunct things now before the public is connected with the late unpleasantness in the A. P. A., and that it would be well to put that all out of sight, and to refrain from dragging out anything else of the kind.

Advertising Poultry.

THE poultrymen of today are confronted with many problems that were unknown in bygone days. In the successful conduct of the poultry business it is necessary to meet the issues of the present, irrespective of what our fathers did. To answer briefly some of the many questions concerning poultry advertising that have been put to me from all parts of the country, is the object of this article. Space will not permit of lengthy or elaborate explanation, and to treat the subject with any intelligence whatever, one must pass the points at issue with more or less general rather than specific terms.

Poultrymen who have been advertising for years—who are fixed in their habits, and have a business established as large as they wish for—are not anxious for advice on the subject. It is the man who has not tried out the proposition—who feels the necessity of knowing how before he begins, that may be benefited by my suggestions.

It is a foregone conclusion that a man who advertises must have something to sell. It is also equally true that a man to sell what he has must advertise in some form or other.

How, when and where are the questions that force themselves upon us for solution. Intelligent advice on either phase of the subject cannot be given unless one is familiar with the entire conditions of the case and understands rightly the purpose of the advertiser.

A small breeder who has a few choice birds, and has won a prize or two at a leading poultry show feels that he has a stock in trade that is worthy of an expenditure in advertising. In many instances he overestimates his capacity, or spends twice as much as he ought to under the circumstances. The result is, he declares, that "advertising doesn't pay," and steps aside to let another man have a chance at what he, after his experiments, considers a "graft game." As a matter of fact, if he had been rightly taken in hand and given the proper advice by those having charge of his advertising, he might have been made a permanent patron rather than a disgruntled antagonist of the advertising idea.

A fancier with a few birds ought to keep his name before the public, particularly those interested in his class of fowls. For example, if he is a Plymouth Rock breeder he ought to let the fraternity know that he is a coming fancier, and that he proposes to be one of them. But there are other things he ought to do besides using a little space in the newspapers. If he has a farm, and his house is situated on the highway, a sign board at each entrance to his premises announcing the fact that he is a breeder of Plymouth Rocks, may bring him a goodly amount of home patronage. The neighbors passing by will be impressed with the idea and become breeders themselves of the Plymouth Rock. More than that, the premises, the poultry yard, and all that has to do with the conduct of the business, ought to be so thoroughly well kept that it will be an advertisement to everyone who chances to come and look at the fowls. This, together with a strong personality, indicates that he means to do something. In an honest open way court investigation; then what you do in a business way have it so thoroughly satisfactory that every customer is a walking advertisement ever after.

Under conditions like these it is well for the poultryman to have a good business card or a neatly gotten up circular. If he has won a prize or two have the bird reproduced. Let everything about the conduct of the business indicate that you are in business for business, and you will be surprised to see how a small beginning of this kind with proper care will grow in influence and profit. In short, if you have something to sell let the people know about it.

The object of the great poultry shows is clearly understood by the thousands of fanciers who patronize them, and shows the people your accomplishments in breeding, and creates a desire in others to do the same thing. Advertising sustains the same relation to the fancier. It is not enough simply to announce the fact—it must be argued and reasoned with a degree of intelligence and plainness that

makes your business easily and quickly understood by those who read it.

When to advertise is a question upon which authorities differ. Ordinarily it is a good idea for the poultryman to advertise the year around, but here arises the question as to what kind of a poultryman we are talking about.

The man with a few birds who does not need but a little advertising to dispose of them, had better utilize space during the season best suited for his purpose. The requirements of the man who has great resources might justify continuous advertising. In fact, those of us who have greatest confidence in the advertising proposition believe that there is no time when advertising will not benefit the advertiser, and the poultryman is no exception.

It usually requires a long time to reap the results of our labors, particularly in the substantial things of this world. I was reminded of this fact the other day when a gentleman came into my office and stated that he had known of me through my literature and my advertising for eleven years. But this was the first opportunity he had had to place any business in my hands. He had been convinced for years that it was the proper thing to do, but the time had not arrived when he felt that he could make the expenditure. It was probably not the first impression he had received that influenced him to place this order eleven years later; but it was the continuous watering and cultivating of seed that was dropped eleven years ago which had just fruited into an order at this time. This we call "accumulative force" in advertising.

Not many eggs are sold for hatching in the fall of the year, but there are a good many people reading about poultry, and are getting in line for the coming spring's campaign. Yet it is rather difficult, as we find it in advertising, to change a man's mind after he has once drawn conclusions as to where and what he will buy. It sometimes requires a good many applications of the truth to convince a man; but if he has once been convinced he will certainly become your customer, even though the order does not come until months after.

A great deal of the advertising of the present day is seasonable advertising. Poultry and kindred lines are expected to cover the winter and spring months. There are a few advertisers, however, who maintain that it has proved profitable to keep it up the year around, and these few, strange to say, are the most successful in the field. I have reference to the fancier or the specialist in the poultry line. One would have to qualify this statement in dealing with the poultry advertiser who does a catalogue business and handles a great variety of stock. His season is very much like that of the seedsman or the incubator manufacturer. It is the winter and spring months that count with him, and he does not care to push his business out of season. Of course there is a reasonableness in this which



FROM 20 INCUBATORS TO 20,000

That is the unbeaten record of the Prairie State Incubators: 20 sold first year—20,000 sold in 1903. Prominent duck and poultry breeders favor the Prairie State because it's always reliable and gives high per cent hatches. The United States Government uses them exclusively. Be sure to send for our free, illustrated catalog full of pictures—among them photos of incubator rooms where 20 to 80 of our machines are in active operation.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO., Lock Box 16, Homer City, Pa.

Prairie State Incubators

WRITE TO

JOS. BRECK & SONS, 47 to 54 N. Market St., Boston, Mass.

They are New England selling agents, show a full line of the Prairie State INCUBATORS and BROODERS, and will mail catalogue FREE and quote factory prices.

ought to be apparent to the advertising man. We would not recommend fur coat advertising in July, or Panama hats in January. It is wise to strike while the iron is hot with rapidity and forcefulness, because it will soon cool off. That's the experience of the seasonable advertiser. It is wise to be able to take advantage of opportunities and conditions that arise, and it's also wise to make your own opportunities.

A few days ago I was in a western city without my umbrella. It was a threatening morning, and I had a big day's work before me—many calls to make. The railroad expense and time, together with incidental traveling expenses, meant that there was practically an investment of \$25 in that day. I noticed on the street a case of umbrellas marked \$1. I was soon satisfied that the umbrella was necessary, and added \$1 to the investment. Even if I had thrown the umbrella away it would have been profitable to have done so, because I had tried to rent one at the hotel and found they were all taken. My long experience convinced me of the advisability of following up my work with thoroughness, and by the use of the umbrella I was permitted to put in the full day's work irrespective of the rain, which continued throughout the day.

An advertiser frequently finds that he has to put a certain amount of money into a breed, into an equipment, into a special line of advertising, in poultry shows, or into other things, and in order to get the returns he must put another dollar with it, or perhaps hundreds of dollars in order to make his venture a successful one. He may find that his literature is inadequate, and that he needs a good catalogue, or booklet, or circular—that his letterheading, which has been gotten out by a cheap printer, is not rightly representing him before the fraternity, and that an extra expenditure is needed there. He may have been doing newspaper advertising, and not following it up, which I regard very unwise. The man who thinks enough of your proposition to send to you for information is worthy of more than a passing notice.

I might have stayed down at the hotel and argued it was a rainy day; that it would not pay me to go and see these people as they

Eggs for Hatching

From hens that make a business of laying. You don't have to trap 'em to discover if they can lay eggs. If you want the real thing in healthy, hardy egg machines, you need our

WHITE WYANDOTTES and
WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS

They are big, plump, yellow legged birds that dress to please the buyer, and lay lots of brown eggs when eggs mean money. If you want to show them they will suit the judge. Send for stamps for our poultry book. Price list on application.

Pollard's Poultry Farm,
Attleboro, Mass.

Park's Pedigree-Bred Reds

ALWAYS WIN

Under All Kinds of Judging

AT LAWRENCE, (At meeting of R. I. Red club) in R. C. class, 1st and 2d hen; 4th cock; 4th chick; 4th pullet, and President's Cup for Best Display.

AT NEW YORK, 1st pullet; 3d hen; 4th cock. If you want the birds that always win, try our strain. Eggs from prize matings only, four females in pen, \$5 per 15; \$3 per 8.

No reduction for quantity. Incubator eggs \$7.50 per 100; \$4 per 50. A few choice breeding cockerels \$3 to \$10 each on approval. Either Rose or Single Comb.

P. K. PARK,
Pearl St., on hill, Reading, Mass.

1904 WHITE LEGHORNS

WE SELL EGGS

NEW YORK PRIZE WINNERS

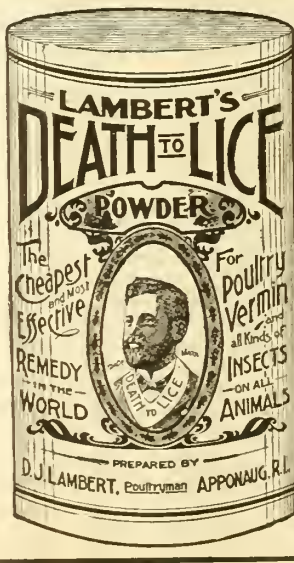
THAT HAVE PRODUCED WINNERS FOR YEARS AT THE LARGEST SHOWS OF THE NORTH—OVER 1000 HIGH CLASS BIRDS—HONORARY PRIZES FOR FANCY EXHIBITION—PRIZES OFFERED FOR LAYERS PRODUCING LOTS OF EGGS—FOR SELECTED LAYERS—STOCK—

WHITE LEGHORNS, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS, WHITE WYANDOTTES, BLACK MINORCAS, LIGHT BRAHMAS, LANGSHIRE COCHINS, AND BAY EGGS.

1000 SPECIAL MATINGS BEING BROUGHT TOGETHER—SEND FOR A CATALOGUE—FREE—BY MAIL—OR BY RETURNED MAIL—

JAMES W. PARK, 1218 CENTRE ST. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Elm Poultry Yards, HARTFORD, CONN.



To Readers of Farm-Poultry

GREETING:—Poultry keepers ought to enjoy the very severe winter, because the cold weather has enhanced prices for eggs and poultry, so that those who have given their birds good care have been well paid for their trouble. Hatching is necessarily delayed, and spring chickens will be scarce and high priced. It will pay those who are fortunate enough to have any to do all that they can to keep them growing.

Breeding stock has been confined so closely on account of the ice and snow that they will be as lousy as beggars unless something has been done to keep them clean. If they are let alone now they will not lay many eggs, hatches will be poor, and the chicks will die or grow very slowly, never properly maturing.

You can get lots of remedies for lice, but many of them will injure the birds in some way, soil their plumage, taint their flesh or kill the chickens when they hatch in it. If you want to do things right get the right kind of thing to do them with. The right remedies for lice are Lambert's. You make no mistake in using them free y. You cannot lose a cent. If they do not do good work you can have your money back, no matter whether you have a package or a ton.

There's nothing so popular for use on sitting hens as Lambert's Death to Lice Powder. You can get their feathers full, put it in their nests, on the eggs, or anywhere except in their feed, without injury to any of the fowls. There's nothing handier. We mail it in 10, 15, 40c, and \$1 packages, or you can purchase it from your dealer. There's nothing that works quicker. The lice disappear while you put it on the hen. All sitters need it. All sitters must have it to do their best.

Little chickens often have head lice. These little blood suckers fasten themselves upon top of a chick's head and stay there as long as there is any blood in their victim. Lice kill more chickens than disease. When the young ones do not grow it pays to look on top of their head and see what you see. Death to Lice Ointment applied at night will work while they sleep, so they will come up in breakfast bright and chipper in the morning. It never injures the chickens. This mixture recently improved. Trial size 10c.; large size 25c. postpaid.

MY POCKET-BOOK POINTERS for 1904 will be ready for mailing this month, and will be sent to all customers and applicants who mention this paper.

Yours truly,

D. J. LAMBERT, - Apponaug, R. I.

MARCH 1st, 1904.

To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.

CHLORO-NAPHTHOLEUM DIP and Live Stock Disinfectant is the ideal remedy for killing lice on poultry, for keeping poultry houses, nests and roosts free from all insects, and is the antiseptic remedy for Roup, Leukæmia, Chicken Cholera, and other forms of contagious and infectious diseases. It is more effective and really cheaper than the home remedies, because it is chemically perfect and accurate, non-poisonous and non-explosive, and always successful. No fear of failure or injury to the birds.

Chloro-Naphtholeum Dip and live stock disinfectant mixes with water, without sediment at bottom or oil to float. Every drop does its duty. Comes concentrated. One gallon can be diluted to make 50 to 100 gallons. You add the water. 1 gallon \$1.50; 5 gallons \$6.75; prepaid. Sold by dealers everywhere in sealed trade marked cans. **WEST DISINFECTING CO., Inc., 29 E. 59th St., New York.**



HIGGINS' Wonder Strain BUFF ROCKS

Will Breed **Winners**

This season as they have done in the past. The last three years I exhibited at Boston, won first and Color Special on Males. (Circular gives other winnings). **EGGS \$3; 2 sittings \$5.** From choice matings.

H. W. HIGGINS,

131 Meehan St., Orange, Mass.

White Wyandottes

EXHIBITION MATINGS

Eggs \$2 per sitting; 3 sittings \$5; per hundred \$10.

LAYING MATINGS

Eggs per hundred \$5; per fifty \$3.

Onalake Poultry Farm,

South Plainfield, N. J.

Box 20,

C. A. DURLING, Mgr.

Rhode Island Reds

Our Reds have been shown in the strongest competition ever known, and our winnings at such shows as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Providence, stamp our strain of Reds one of the best in America.

AT NEW YORK, 1904,

1st COCK; 1st HEN;
1st PULLET; 3d COCKEREL.

We have mated the 1st New York cock to 10 females that are royally bred. These females are our New York and Providence prize winners; the balance of the pen are equally good,—good combs, bay eyes, red undercolor, standard surface color, good size and shape. A limited number of sittings from this pen at

\$5.00 for 15

A few good birds for sale low.
Send for circular.

HAZELMERE POULTRY YARDS,

Knightsville, Cranston, R. I.

knew me anyway—but I would have lost the time and expense of the day, and the good business I secured.

People are not running after the advertiser because they like him. It is because they like something about him, and particularly the things he advertises. It is either through personality, sheer force of persuasion, or a deep seated conviction that the thing that is being advertised is the best that can be found anywhere that induces the purchase.

Where to advertise is a question the poultryman need not be very much concerned about.

Shipments of eggs from New England to California for hatching purposes are going on continuously, and vice versa, the California fancier ships to his brother fancier in Maine, and the express or freight charges do not seem to be much of a barrier.

The Plymouth Rock breeder will find Plymouth Rock fanciers throughout the entire country. On the farm in the village, or even in our great cities, they are to be found in great numbers. What is true of this breed is equally true of many others.

I think it a good idea for the advertiser to begin at home and get himself well known among his neighbors and friends because of the home influence. It is frequently found, however, that the "prophet is not without honor save in his own country." The advertiser, instead of having a local trade as he ought, is dependent entirely upon the far away buyer for his business. There is a

tendency on the part of many to buy things away from home, and the mail order business is rapidly developing as a result of this very prevalent custom. The poultryman finds location, therefore, of but slight import.

I would urgently recommend the proper crating of poultry for shipment. Every shipping box should be neatly constructed, and it affords a good opportunity for an advertisement on the outside that ought not to be lost sight of. On the theory that "all kinds of advertising helps all kinds of advertising," the poultryman should avail himself of all such opportunities of making his business known. The contents of a package depends very much upon the appearance of the package from the outside. A fine cockerel in a rickety old box does not show at his best, and the breeder who makes a shipment of that kind is advertising all along the way that he believes appearances do not count, when, as a matter of fact, they do.

Good clean neat appearing advertising, and clean methods of conducting the business, together with a strong personality, honest, frank manhood in the conduct of business, all count for much, and the successful poultryman will find these things necessary to meet modern conditions. Other methods may have succeeded fairly well in the past, but in this day of better things for poultrymen we must conduct our business in a better way.—**FRANK B. WHITE, in White's Class Advertising.**



Feeding and Watering Poultry by Horse Power.

Intensive Poultry Culture on Clay Soil.

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—My poultry yards, six in number, are located on a hard putty clay soil mixed with stone, and cover an area of about 8,500 square feet. The ground has a fair slope to the rear. In this space I keep from 40 to 80 old birds. Young are raised on other ground. I have been here five years, and while the yards have been swept and cleaned every year they are foul.

Is there any effective method of purifying the yards and still continuing their use, or had I better secure another location? It is impracticable to plow because of the number of small stumps and stoues. No grass grows in yards, as it has been in woods, and has been cleared as I have had time. **T. P.**

In the article on location printed elsewhere in this paper I have expressed a very unfavorable opinion of a clay soil for poultry. If all the land available at this place is of the same character as that described, a hard clay, which by reason of stumps and stones cannot be cultivated, I certainly would advise a change of location if it is desired to make either pleasure or profit out of the poultry kept. A clay soil is always a disadvantage, calling for a great deal of extra work in order to make fowls do reasonably well even when the soil is fresh, and when it becomes contaminated by years of use it becomes almost impossible to keep stock in condition equal to what is found on more favorable soils. Often the deterioration in stock is gradual and general, and so passes quite unnoticed by the keeper long after it is evident to a visitor whose judgment on such matters is good.

Such visitors, by the way, learn to be shy of freely criticising the condition of such stock, for commonly the criticism gives offense and fails to lead to any improvement of conditions.

I infer from the above letter that the piece of ground in question is not the property of the owner. If so, I certainly should not advise him to attempt the work necessary to put it in condition suitable for continuous poultry keeping. I think the only satisfactory way to work on a clay soil would be to have it tillable and arrange for alternate yards, say, making garden in a yard one year and running chickens in it the next. By planning to grow in the yard crops which would be removed early it would be possible to seed the yard to grass early enough in the fall to give the grass a good start before winter. Then if the heus were kept on the other yard until necessary to plant it, the grass would get a start in the spring that would carry it well through the season.

This plan of course reduces the number of fowls that can be kept on any given area, but it also reduces the least agreeable parts of the labor, very much improves the appearance of the poultry plant, and generally gives more satisfactory results with the poultry. If Mr. P. tries this for a season I don't think he will care to go back to the system of putting so many fowls on a small area of ground. Until one who has begun by intensive methods makes the trial, he really has no idea how much easier it is to care for the fowls, and how much less necessary to observe a careful routine when the fowls are given more room and more appropriate surroundings.



Raise Every Chick You Hatch

Feed **F. P. C. Chick Manna** to your chicks for the first ten days.

After that use **Cyphers' Chick Food**. They will grow strong quickly and you'll be free from lots of chick troubles.

Roup cures should be kept on hand to use immediately upon first indication of this most common and deadly poultry disease.

Poultry Supply Book

Illustrated. Send for it, free, to find out about poultry supplies of any kind.

JOHNSON & STOKES Dept. I

217-219 Market Street

Philadelphia

90^{PER CENT} Fertility GUARANTEED.

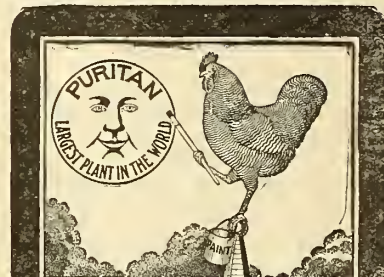
Whitest of White

PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Winners of 3 Silver Cups

Eggs \$3 a sit.; \$15 per 100.

E. F. CONNESS,
Mattapan, - Mass.



OUR CATALOGUE SHOWS America's Largest and Best Poultry Plant.

How to make Poultry Keeping Pay. How to raise chicks with smallest loss. How to construct the most scientific and up to date Poultry Houses, Brooder Houses, Feed Houses, Incubator Cellars, Yards and Colony Houses.
How to check the death rate of your little chicks, and at once.

HOW WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR SUCCESS
This and a mine of other useful information that you can get nowhere else. No such variety is offered in any poultry book or magazine. Also scores of most beautiful half-tone pictures of the famous

PURITAN PLANT.

This catalogue is free. Write today.

Puritan Poultry Farm and Mfg. Co.,
Stamford, Conn.



To say, when writing advertisers, "**SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY,**" will benefit you—please them—and help us.

BUYING EGGS FOR HATCHING.

The Lottery That Is Different.

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—Your remarks in a late issue regarding buying and selling eggs strike me as being absolutely just and absolutely fair.

I have been selling eggs now for the last five years all over the United States. I have stated in my catalogue in plain black and white that I sell just the same eggs as I set myself in my own incubators, and more than that *I have done so*. I sold a lady some eggs one day in June, and she exhibited against me and got second prize, leaving me first and third. She paid me my price. She took her chances. She won. I lost. I never kicked. She never kicked. She paid me \$3 and got a bird worth, I should say, easily \$25.

Buying eggs for hatching is like buying a ticket in a lottery. You may win, and you may not win. But there is this difference: When you lose in a lottery it is luck. When you lose in buying eggs the dealer is a scoundrel. When you take a "chance" at an organ or a tidy or a sofa pillow at a church entertainment, if you don't win you simply don't, —and that ends it. But when you pay a man a small fraction of the value of a valuable bird in buying eggs you are grossly cheated if you don't win the grand prize. I have never been able to understand the philosophy of the argument unless we are to suppose that a breeder becomes suddenly insane and non compos mentis the minute he begins to sell eggs for hatching. Why should a man agree to sell for \$3 what is plainly worth \$30?

Suppose a man is breeding a fowl that we will call, for example, the Gray Austrian. He offers eggs for hatching at \$3 per sitting. A really first class Gray Austrian male is worth, say \$25, and a female about \$10. If now a buyer pays \$3 for a sitting of eggs and gets one good female, he gains on his investment about 200 per cent. If he gets a first class male he gains on his outlay about 700 per cent. If he gets a good pair he wins about 1,000 per cent. But few buyers would be satisfied with merely one pair from a sitting; they think they ought to have four or five pairs. Or, speaking roughly, the buyer expects to lay out about \$3 and expects to get about \$150 worth of birds—else he kicks, and implies, at least, that the breeder is a scoundrel.

For some occult reason which I have never been able to understand, the amateur breeder—and these remarks apply only to amateurs—seems to think that buying eggs for hatching is a "sure way to heat the game." As I say, I am not sure I understand his mental processes, it would seem as if he thought the breeder suddenly became insane in offering eggs for hatching—because, forsooth, here is a safe and easy way to get chickens cheap, cheap and good "a sure winner."

Well now, breeders have their faults, and are, I suppose, as greedy and unprincipled as the rest of mankind, but assuredly not more so. Whatever they may be they certainly are not exactly fools, and when a breeder sets a price of \$3 on a sitting of eggs he really estimates that the sitting of eggs is worth \$3, and not \$150. Indeed, unless the breeder were actually insane he would never let a commodity valued at \$150 go for \$3. If there is any insanity at all it is on the side of the silly buyer who thinks the breeder is insane.

The fallacy of the amateur buyer's argument consists in overlooking the very strong element of chance in hatching eggs. The concentrated experience of mankind regarding hatching and its uncertainties is expressed in the old, old proverb: *Don't count your chickens before they are hatched*. The trouble with the amateur buyer of eggs for hatching is that he persists in counting his chickens before they are hatched.

What a wonderfully different world this would be but for those horrid "ifs."

If every egg would always be fertile.

If every chick would always breed true to immediate parents.

If there were no such thing to plague us as atavism.

If expressmen would not jolt, jar and break eggs in passage.

If the temperature would not suddenly change during transit.

If lamps in incubators would not fail to work at critical periods.

If the attendant would not forget to turn the eggs.

If the proper supply of oxygen were always supplied.

If the attendant would regulate the machine aright at all times.

If hens were always good and careful mothers.

If this and if that, and if the other thing.

Then a breeder would be foolish to sell eggs at \$3 per. But so long as he and every other mortal has to combat these and other "ifs" too numerous to mention, just so long can he afford to sell chances. The amateur is really buying a "chance;" he thinks he is buying a certainty; and that is where the shoe pinches.

After five years experience in selling eggs for hatching I have about made up my mind to sell no more eggs. I find myself growing cynical and losing faith in human nature every season. Unless the mathematical doctrine of probabilities is all wrong—a doctrine

The Editor's Question Box.

In this department the editor will answer miscellaneous questions on poultry topics, and all special requests for his personal views which can be answered briefly. Inquiries will be answered as promptly as possible, and as nearly as may be in the order in which they are received.

Lakenfelder Eggs. I have several requests for information as to where to get Lakenfelder eggs. Must refer all to advertising columns of the paper.

How Soon to Feed Mash. (D. P. F.)—"When would you advise feeding mash? What age should the chicks be?"

I feed my chicks mash from the first. While there are not many of them I also use a Johnny cake for one or two of the soft feeds every day. But when we have enough chicks to make baking Johnny cake a burden there are enough of them to make it worth while to mix up a mash as often as wanted, so we discontinue the cake.

Is It a Difference in Mothers? (D. P. F.)—"I had a hen bring out a brood of eleven. All looked fine and healthy, but in a few days they would bung up behind and finally die. I have only one left out of the eleven. Is this dysentery? They were fed nothing but Green's chick food, and were housed exactly the same as another brood of sixteen which were hatched two weeks earlier, from which I have lost but one."

It is probable that the trouble is with the hen that had the brood of eleven. There are hens that will lose nearly all their chicks this way. Generally these are hens that hatch poorly, but sometimes they give good hatches. If I knew all the circumstances, and had seen the hen with her chicks, I think I could tell pretty nearly why that particular hen did not do well with her brood, but it is not wise to offer specific opinions on points like that on a report of a case.

Chicks Have Eyes Closed. (W. E.)—"What causes little chicks just hatched to have their eyes closed and hard to open, sometimes a white scum over them?"

Any cause that brings the chick to the hatching stage in poor condition may be a cause of this; but in chicks a few days or weeks old colds are the most common causes of eye troubles, and it is entirely possible that a chick should contract a cold before hatching, and so come out of the shell with eyes gummed up. Gummed eyelids also occur frequently in connection with a condition of the egg which leaves the membrane enveloping the chick thick and slimy at the hatching stage instead of thin and with a tendency to wither away as it should be. In such cases the down does not dry off clean and fluff out, but the sticky fluid of the membrane dries out down and skin and makes the chick a rather

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on the strength of which all insurance companies rely and invest millions of dollars successfully—unless this doctrine is all wrong, I find myself forced to believe that a rather large number of people in this country are wilful perjurers when stating results of hatching eggs.

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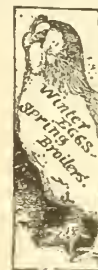
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someone through the columns of your excellent paper give me the desired information?"

If any readers are able to give exact information on this point I hope they will do so, for it is one of the points upon which exact information is hard to get, not only hard for poultry papers but also hard for poultry keepers. I don't think such information as may or might be furnished can have much direct working value, for the cost is affected by conditions seldom the same in any two cases, but by comparison of expenditures and of results growers can find out whether or not someone else is getting certain results more economically. For instance, suppose one grower is "fussy" in feeding his little chicks, gives a good deal of time to preparation of foods, and uses comparatively expensive articles, while another feeds them the same articles as his old fowls get with very little different preparation; and suppose also that results are the same weights about equal at any given age. It ought to be at once evident to the "fussy" feeder that he was doing some unnecessary work and going to needless expense. Then suppose that a third party feeding as the second one above finds that he does not get good results while using that system of feeding. The success of No. 2 should plainly indicate to him that his trouble was due to something else outside of the ration.

It may be appropriately said here that one good reason for the scarcity of exact information about cost of growing chicks is that generally the chicks are fed out of the supplies for the entire stock, and are disposed of at different ages—some for broilers, some for roasters. With ducks the object is to market all as soon as marketable, and the conditions of duck growing are such that it is a comparatively easy matter to keep account of cost of growing the ducklings.

Limber Neck. (?) (S. T. B.)—"What is the nature of and the best treatment for 'limber neck'?" Several good cocks have died here this winter of it, and no one seems to know what to do. Heads of birds are completely inverted in most cases, the neck being twisted all out of shape."

Limber neck, so called, is a symptom of, or condition resulting from several kinds of troubles to which fowls are susceptible. The symptoms are not always alike. The one thing common is that the neck is twisted and distorted either continuously or spasmodically. The neck is distorted or twisted sometimes in rheumatism, in epileptic attacks due to worms, indigestion or apoplectic condition, and probably also in spinal meningitis, of which I suspect there are a great many cases among fowls. The treatment to be intelligent must be treatment for the disease that causes the trouble, and this even with some experience would be very much a matter of guess work and of experiment in hope of striking a treatment which would prove effective. Rheumatism is sometimes curable—not always. Worms generally cured by use of a vermifuge. Indigestion and apoplectic tendencies can be corrected by dieting and proper hygiene. For anything in the nature of meningitis or brain fever, treatment would generally be useless.

Shell Peeling Off Before Chicks are Due. (D. P. T.)—"What is the cause of shell falling off and leaving skin on chick two or three days before they would hatch out, the hen in most cases killing them by sitting on them? Some I saved by removing this skin and releasing the chick if it occurred on the twentieth day. In fixing nest in box I put in two shovels of moist soil, and cover with dry leaves and grass."

Mr. F. in stating the case brings the hen into the matter a step too late. It is the weight, or the restlessness of the hen, often with faulty construction of the nest that causes the trouble. It may occur with a very heavy hen though the nest is properly shaped and the eggs with good shells. The breaking takes place at this time because then shells begin to become more brittle—nature's way of facilitating the efforts of the chick to get out of the shell. I have seen flat breasted heavy hens that never seemed to make any effort to sustain the weight of their bodies on their legs when incubating, but would lie right down flat on the eggs and break a large part of them just as they were about to hatch. A weak shelled egg is very apt to break in this

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SINGLE COMB WHITE LEGHORNS exclusively. Bred 8 years for heavy egg production. Unexcelled in size, vigor, shape and color. At Manchester, Jan. 26, 1904, won every first prize, two seconds, 8 specials, and \$5 in gold for 5 highest scoring birds in Mediterranean class—nearly 100 birds in class. This record not beaten in New England last winter. Have advertised in Farm-Poultry seven years, and have customers in 14 states. Eggs from birds scoring not less than 94, \$2 per 12. Eggs from choice pens \$1 per 15; \$4 per 100; \$10 per 300; \$15 per 500. Arthur G. Symonds, Route 15, Concord, N. H.

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ROSE and Single Comb Black Minorcas. Eggs from pens headed by New York and Rochester winners \$2; one pen S. C. \$1. Standard weight cock \$2 to \$5. M. V. Allen & Son, Ovid, N. Y.

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WHITE ORPINGTONS—If you want the best send us your order for stock and eggs. Winners of every first over Cook at Chicago, 1903. Eggs \$5 and \$10 per sitting. Send for circular containing matings. Knowles, Young & Co., North Adams, Mich.

CUT PRICES for English Buff Orpingtons, Partridge Plymouth Rocks, Crocker strain, 15 eggs \$1. Silver Pencilled Wyandottes, Loring strain, 15 eggs \$1.50. Arthur Waite, Rockville, Mass.

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HOMER pigeons, bred for heavy squabbing, fine healthy stock. Preston Poul. Farm, Morton, Pa.

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BRIDGEWATER, 25 miles from Boston, 6 acre poultry farm, under high cultivation; about 90 fruit trees, bordered by river, fine boating and fishing; electric pass; buildings consist of 8 room house, finished in hardwood; stable for 2 horses, incubator cellar underneath, brooder house 40 x 20, grain and cook room 14 x 14, scratching shed house 20 x 14; smaller house 20 x 10; an ideal plant for a poultry man; cost to build \$4000, sell for \$3000. P. O. Box 231, Boston.

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BARRIED ROCKS, eggs \$1 per 15; \$6 per 100.
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BARRIED ROCKS. Eggs for hatching \$2 per sitting; set for cockerel and pullet for \$1. First pullet, second cockerel at Newark; pullets for sale.
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GREGORY'S famous Yorkshire strain Barred Rocks, Pekin ducks, Bronze turkeys, Pea fowl, bred 20 years for show room and utility. Unbeaten records; stock, eggs. Ira Gregory, Gridley, Ill.

BUFF ROCKS, Nuggett strain; eggs from extra large heavy winter layers and splendid buff color matings \$1 per 15; guarantee 8 chicks.
Arthur Taylor, Washington, N. J.

FROM the banner birds of the world, show pure Nuggett strain of Buff Plymouth Rocks. Eggs for hatching, \$3 per 15; \$5 for 30; stock for sale.
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FINE Buff Rocks, farm range, eggs 15 for \$1.
Mrs. G. W. VanTreese, Newton, Illinois.

FARM grown Wh. Rocks excel. Fishel strain. Eggs \$2; 100, \$5. D. Kirhofer, Dalton, O.

ABST PARK Poultry Yards, breeders of choice Barred, Buff, and White Plymouth Rocks. Eggs \$2 per 15; \$3.50 for 30; from prize winning hatch guar. N. C. Messer, L. Box 44, Pittsfield, Mass.

PEACOCK'S Invaluable Barred Rocks have won 4 out of 6 possible firsts on hens at the Maine state poultry shows during past 3 years. Lambert and Hawkins, judges. Handsomely illustrated booklet tells the rest of the story.
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SHOVE'S Rhode Island Reds are winners. Nine firsts out of a possible eleven. Rose, Single and Pea Combs, also Houdans. Eggs \$2 for 13; \$5 for 40.
Daniel P. Shove, Fall River, Mass.

WE HAVE WON more first prizes in strong competition than any other breeder of Reds. Don't order eggs until you get our circular of winners. Standard Bros., Fall River, Mass.

CHOICE prize winning and grand laying Rose and Single Comb R. I. Reds. Splendid color, none better. Stock always. Eggs \$5 per 15; \$5 per 30.
F. M. Symmes, Winchester, Mass.

READ'S STRAIN of Single Comb Reds are winners at the largest shows in the country. They have great size and the correct shape and color of the new standard requirements. Stick to our strain if you want heavy layers and winners. Eggs from extra choice matings \$2 per sitting.
Frank D. Read, Fall River, Mass.

SINGLE and Rose Comb Reds, prize winners; matings are the cream of 300 birds bred to lay and win, \$1 per 13; \$5 per 100.
Robert Wallace, Athol, Mass.

CHOICE R. I. REDS from noted winners. Two splendid pens mated for exhibition. Eggs \$2 per 15. Strong, healthy, utility birds, unexcelled as laying stock \$1.50 per 15. Six Oaks Poultry Yards, F. M. Temple, prop. Andover, Mass.

READ'S R. C. strain. Great winter layers. \$1.50 per 15. C. E. Smith, Box 42, Fall River, Mass.

ROSE Comb Rhode Island Reds. Eggs from my prize winning strain \$1.50 per 15; incubator eggs \$5 per 100.
J. W. Osborn, Dayton, N. J.

OUR REDS, Single and Rose Combs, have won 21 firsts and seconds and 2 cups this season, in strongest possible competition. Our breeders are large, correct in type, and positively free from taint or white in undercolor. Eggs \$2, \$3, and \$5 per 13. Particulars in illustrated booklet free.
L. W. Bean, So. Braintree, Mass.

SINGLE Comb Rhode Island Reds exclusive, farm raised free range. Largest breeder in Pennsylvania. Eggs \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30; \$6 per 100.
Jeremiah Miller, R. F. D. No. 7, York, Pa.

RHODE Island Reds. Eggs for hatching \$1.50 per sitting; incubator eggs \$4 per hundred; fifth pullet New York.
F. H. Wells, Deer Park, N. Y.

EGGS from S. C. B. I. Reds \$2 per 15. I have the heavy, also red undercolor and extra laying strain. My stock showed by me have won at Boston, also other large shows. Wm. Milo, Montpelier, Vt.

1200 R. AND S. C. B. I. Reds. A great laying and utility strain. Eggs from carefully selected stock with red eyes, lobes and clean red undercolor. \$1.50 per 13; \$5 per 52; incubator eggs a specialty, \$4.50 per 100; \$40 per 1000. See ad, page 241.
F. W. C. Almy, Titv. 4 Corners, R. I.

ROSE COMB R. I. RED CLUB. Representative club for Rose Comb breeders only. State that you do not breed Single Comb Reds. By-laws, standard, and other literature sent free. It is time for the Rose Comb breeders to get together. Address F. D. Baerman, Secretary, Danville, N. J.

R. I. REDS, fresh fertile eggs from prize winning farm raised stock \$1 per 15; \$4 per 100.
C. A. Sanborn, Walnut Hill Poultry Farm, 324 Washington St., Woburn, Mass.

RHODE Island Reds, Rose and Single Comb exclusively. Eggs \$1.50 per sitting; \$3 for 30; \$5 for 100. Winners Boston, 1902; first R. C. cock; 2nd, 5th R. C. pen; 1st B. C. pen, and 1st S. C. pen. Lawrence, 31st; Framingham, 31st; Schenectady, N. Y., and Chicago, first. Won over one hundred prizes. Stock for sale. Homing Pigeons, Standard and primed description of Reds free with order.
Elm Poultry Farm, W. S. Harris, Mansfield, Mass.

CLARK FARM R. I. Reds are bred for business and profit. The quality and quantity of our poultry and eggs is proof of this. Send for circular to G. B. Clark, Concord, Mass.

RHODE ISLAND WHITES.

RHODE ISLAND WHITES—fast layers and for quick maturing for broilers or roasters they have no equal. Catalogue free. A. Alonzo Jacey, Originator and breeder, Wakefield, R. I.

way, and for that reason weak shelled eggs ought not to be set under hens. I don't think they ought to be set anywhere by a breeder growing chicks for laying or stock purposes. Mr. F.'s nests may be at fault. Leaves make very poor nesting material, breaking up quickly and working to the sides of the nest, leaving the center bare. This is not desirable, even though the nest contains earth. The earth gets packed quite hard after three weeks sitting, and the eggs are not much better off than if on hard boards. One spring, some years ago, I tried using earth with no hay, straw, or similar stuff over it, and found the proportion of eggs broken in those nests very much greater than in nests made in the usual way.

Lump in Face. (G. F. S.)—"Our chickens have a disease which shows itself in the form of a red lump between the eye and nose. Can you recommend anything for it?"

The lump usually develops after a cold. It is due either to enlargement of a gland or accumulation of matter there. I would not be positive about the method of it. Sometimes it goes away with usual treatment for colds, steaming and bathing with carbolic acid and water, hydrogen dioxide, etc., anointing with vaseline. I have known cases where it remained for weeks or even months, and then suddenly disappear, the fowl in the meantime not seeming at all affected by it. In a good many cases nothing that was tried had any effect on it. I had one stock of Barred Rocks once which was very prone to this trouble. It would develop after even a very slight cold. I got rid of it by getting rid of all stock with that blood in it.

Another New York Show.

The Association of Poultry and Pet Stock Breeders of Greater New York and vicinity will hold its first annual show in the Herald Square Exhibition Hall, Nov. 28—Dec. 3, 1904. Officers of this association are: Pres., Paul Kyle, Flushing, S. I. Vice-pres., F. Wille, Annadale, S. I. Treas., Ad. Feige, Rossville, L. I. Sec'y, Chas. Ed. Gauss, Flushing, L. I. We understand that this show is in no sense in opposition to the Madison Square Garden show, but that the promoters feel that the field is large enough for two big shows.

NEWS NOTES.

The next annual show of the Tri-State Poultry and Pet Stock Association will be held in Angola, Ind., Jan. 18—21, 1905. S. B. Lane, judge. H. M. Crain, Sec'y.

The new catalogue of the Buff Plymouth Rock Club is now ready for distribution. Send 3 cent stamp, to pay postage, to W. C. Denny, sec'y American Buff Rock Club, Rochester, N. Y.

The 1904 catalogue of Grove Hill Poultry Yards, Waltham, Mass., is a pamphlet that ought to be in the hands of everyone interested in Barred Plymouth Rocks and S. C. Brown Leghorns. Rarely has a poultry circular been issued that contained so much in so small space. Concise descriptions of all matings are given, and with these information about the breeding lines of the two varieties carried here that will be especially helpful to customers and cannot fail to be suggestive to every breeder. The circular is sent free on request.

HAWKINS

PLYMOUTH ROCKS

WYANDOTTES

Breeds America's Best

Barred, White and Buff.

Silver, White and Buff.

EGGS and BIRDS at honest prices. Catalogue of America's best free.

A. C. HAWKINS,

Box 5, Lancaster, Mass.

WE HAVE SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

when we talk of **Rex Flintkote Roofing** and its superiority over all other roofing for farm buildings. If you want your buildings fully protected from heat and cold, rain and snow, fire and water, you should use

REX Flintkote Roofing

It keeps the poultry and stock warm and dry in winter and cool in summer. It does not pollute the water with which it comes in contact, leaving it available for all domestic uses. It comes ready to lay, and inside each roll is packed enough caps, nails, and cement sufficient for laying. It is excellent for lining the feed boxes in poultry houses and all other stock buildings, and rats and vermin will not attack it. Full particulars are given so any one can lay it. Send for our book, it is free.

J. A. & W. BIRD & CO. 53 India Street, Boston, Mass.



NOT TOO LATE — JUNE IS THE MONTH

To hatch winners for the January shows. None are better, larger, or grow quicker than

BRIGHT'S BROWN LECHORNS BARRIED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

Get eggs from large quick growing birds that have the color that wins. Grove Hill wins on young fresh birds. Take the tip.

EGGS Brown Leghorns \$4 per sitting; \$12.50 per 50, as they run. Barred Rocks, \$5 per sitting; \$12.50 per 50, as they run; \$6 to \$10 per sitting to suit the wants of the purchaser.

REDUCTION.—After May 15 will sell a number of orders at \$20 per 100 as they run, from our prize pens.

GROVE HILL POULTRY YARDS,

W. E. BRIGHT Prop.

Box 401, Waltham, Mass.
A. C. SMITH, Sup't.

The World's Best

Seems just now a favorite method of advertising poultry. This sounds good, but how can

Duston

White Wyandottes

add any adjective to this to show that it has taken his

To produce these "World's best" flocks? Since the New York show I have furnished first prize winning cocks, cock'ls, hens and pens for 6 of the hottest shows in the country, the kind that have competition, for it is no honor to win when one shows alone. Orders for eggs shipped promptly from some especially grand pens, \$5 sit; 2 sits \$8; 3 sits \$10; 5 sits \$15; or \$20 in hundred lots; write your wants in stock and eggs to

ARTHUR G. DUSTON,

2c. Stamp for Cat.

The White Wyandotte Man.

223 East Main St., Marlboro, Mass.

TRAP NESTS.

STOP EGGS EATING, and show which hens lay the eggs. The "Ideal" is reliable, easily made inexpensive. Write for particulars to Frank O. Wellcome, Yarmouth, Maine.

TURKEYS.

M. W. H. turkeys. Eggs, now, \$2 per 11. Mrs. Wm. Patterson, West Alexander, Pa.
BRONZE turkey eggs, guaranteed 90 per cent fertile, \$1.75 per sitting, from strong thoroughbred stock; satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. C. Adell Kayner & Co., Lockport, N. Y.

WANTED.

SITUATION as gen'l mgr. combination farm. Understand poultry, cows, garden, fruit, field crops, etc.; 3 yrs. at Cornell Ag. Col.; 8 yrs. practical exp.; best of ref. Address R. T., care Farm-Poultry.

THE MANAGER of one of the largest successful poultry plants, having a wide experience in poultry house construction in different parts of the country, has a limited time he will devote to laying out new plants, large or small. Correspondence solicited. Address Expert, Box 25, Pinehurst, N. C.

WANTED, steady position on good poultry plant as working manager; or work as hand. 20 years experience. References. "Mills," care F&P.

WANTED, The Blandon poultry show wants prices on new or second hand exhibition coops. E. G. Wilkinson, Sec'y, Box 75, Blandon, Pa.

WYANDOTTES.

INCUBATOR EGGS. My specialty, from Duston's White Wyandottes only. Vigorous farm bred stock, \$5 per 100. Book now, and ship when required. Will contract for your season's supply. Edward E. Ling, R. No. 8, South Portland, Maine.
5,000 FERTILE White Wyandotte eggs for hatching, \$1 per 15; \$2 per 40; \$4 per 100, from large, blocky fine shaped birds, yellow legs, and pure white; are grand layers of large brown eggs; cockerels \$2.
C. A. Stevens & Co., Box 4, Wilson, N. Y.

WHITE Wyandottes, Barnes & Woodbury strain. Eggs \$2; 10, R. T. Cole, Marlboro, Mass.

WYANDOTTES.

WHITE Wyandottes, I won at Milford, Dec., 1903, 1st and 4th on pen, 1861, 1891. Farm raised brown eggs, 13, \$1; 100, \$4. H. W. Reed, Carville, Mass.

CHOICE prize winning White Wyandottes. Finest exhibition and utility stock, splendid show record. Eggs \$2 per sitting; \$7 per 100.
Horace W. Holton, 34 Waite St., Malden, Mass.

WHITE, Buff and Partridge Wyandottes. Eggs \$1 and \$2 per 15. Booklet tells the rest. "Tis free. Wellsboro Poultry Yards, Wellsboro, Pa.

DUSTON WHITE Wyandottes are the best. Can sell you eggs from large healthy vigorous birds and good layers at \$1 per 15.
Ralph Haswell, Housick Falls, N. Y.

WHITE Wyandottes. Can spare few eggs \$2 per sitting; 2sittings \$3. Belgian hares for wing state wants. Geo. Hall, East Islip, N. Y.

WHITE Wyandotte selected eggs from our best high scoring pens mated from best Duston's Felch-McClay stock, \$1.50 per 15; \$5 per 100. Wegman's satisfaction. Rose View Farm, Brookville, Pa.

FISHEL'S magnificent White Wyandottes. Large perfect shape, snow white. World's best for exhibition or utility. Illustrated egg catalogues \$5 per 15. J. C. Fishel & Son, Box N, Hope, Ind.

STEVEN Pen, Wyandotte, Cornell str., \$2 sit; 3 sits, \$5. E. A. Hall, 60 High St., N. Attleboro, Mass.

EGGS from prize matings White and Buff Wyandottes \$2 per 15, incubator eggs \$5 per 100.
C. D. Hatch, Shelton, Conn.

BUFF Wyandotte eggs, \$1 per 13. Good stock, Nellie Williamson, Kinsman, Ohio.

WYAND. Wh., Buff, brown, egg prolific layers; winners 125 prizes Manchester, Concord, N. H., Lewiston, Me.; L. Mansville, Ky.; best stock; fine eggs \$1.50; 45 \$1; 100 \$5. C. F. Davis, Warner, N. C.

CHOICE BREEDING STOCK for sale at reduced prices. This is a good time to buy good Golden, Buff and White Wyandottes of
L. H. Brown, Lanesburg, Mass.

WHITE Wyandottes from the best pens in the country, less than one half price for 10 days \$1 sitting \$5 per 100, 215 egg strain. I have won over 100 prizes Boston and other shows.
J. S. Gates, Westboro, Mass.

To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.

MARKET REVIEW.

BOSTON.

[From Boston Produce Market Report, May 5, 1904].
Eggs.

Receipts.	Cases.
For 6 days.....	46,106
Same week last year.....	41,590
Previous 6 days.....	49,289
Since April 1.....	188,791
Same time last year.....	268,846

Receipts have been liberal for the past week, and there has been a steady moderate demand with but little change in prices. Western firsts have been selling at 18¢@18½¢, according to the section received from. Choice marks from Michigan, northern Ohio, and Indiana have ruled firm at 18½¢, but there has been a good deal of other stock that has been well sold at 18¢. Dirties and checks have been in full supply, are ruling lower. Kentucky, Tennessee, and other southern quiet. Storage packed stock has been steady at 18½¢@18¾¢.

Boston Fruit and Produce Exchange Official Quotations.

Quotations at Mark.

Fancy henuery.....	..@20
Me., Vt. and N. H. extras.....	..@19
Me., Vt., and N. H. firsts.....	..@18½
York state firsts.....	..@18½
Mich., North. Ohio, and Ind. firsts.....	..@18½
Illinois and Iowa firsts.....	..@18½
Other west. and northwestern firsts.....	..@18
Western, fair to good.....	..@18
Western dirties.....	..15½ @16
Western checks.....	..15 @15½
Kentucky firsts.....	..17½ @18
Tennessee and other southern.....	..17 @17½
Duck eggs, ½ doz.....	..20 @22
Goose eggs, ½ doz.....	..35 @35

Storage Packed:—

Western firsts.....	18½ @18¾
---------------------	----------

Dressed Poultry.

Receipts 6 days.....	3,002 packages.
Same time last year.....	1,891 "

Receipts for export not included in above 4,245 packages. There has been no improvement in the demand for fresh fowls since our last weekly report. Trade has been very quiet all the week, and since Monday 13c. has been about the top for best marks of western fowls, and some ordinary southwestern have been selling at 12¢@12½¢. Demand for old cocks has also been lighter than usual, and late sales have been at 10¢@10½¢. Very little other fresh poultry coming. Frozen stock steady but quiet.

Fresh Killed Northern and Eastern.—

Fowls, choice.....	..15 @
Fowls, common to good.....	..13 @14

Nearby Broilers:—

Choice 3 to 3½ lbs. to pair, ½ lb.....	..25 @28
Squab broilers, 1 lb. ea., ½ pair.....	..75 @90
Pigeons, choice ½ doz.....	..1.75 @1.85
Pigeons, common to good.....	..1.00 @1.25
Squabs, choice large, ½ doz.....	..2.50 @3.00

Western Iced —

Turkeys, choice.....	..17 @
Turkeys, common to good ½ lb.....	..14 @16
Fowls, choice ½ lb.....	..@13
Fowls, common to good.....	..12 @12½
Old cocks ½ lb.....	..10 @10½
Pigeons, choice ½ dozen.....	..1.75 @1.85
Pigeons, com. to good ½ doz.....	..1.00 @1.25

Western Frozen:—

Turkeys, No. 1.....	..18 @18½
Chickens, good to choice.....	..14 @16
Broilers, 1½ to 2 lbs.....	..19 @20
Broilers, over 2 lbs.....	..17 @18
Fowls, choice.....	..13 @

Live Poultry.

Receipts have been light, and best eastern fowls have been selling in small lots at about 13c.

Fowls ½ lb.....	..12½ @13
Roosters ½ lb.....	..8 @

NEW YORK.

[From The Producers' Price Current, May 4, 1904].
Eggs.

Receipts today, 20,155 cases; last six days, 117,886 cases; previous six days, 146,320 cases. For the great bulk of stock offering the market is in a dull, weak, and unsatisfactory condition. Fancy selected egg from northerly sections are held unchanged, as such have an alternate outlet to cold storage, and many are being put away; but there is a large surplus of medium and lower grades for which holders are anxious to find an outlet, and which no one wants to store at the prices asked. Western firsts are still quoted at 18c., and storage selections at 18½¢, but few sales of the latter are reported on the open market. To pass as firsts the stock must be strictly fine, and many

marks of western and southwestern that have formerly sold as such now have to be shaded at least ½c. All ordinary qualities of southwestern and western are dragging heavily at weak prices. Dirties lower and moving slowly.

N. Y. Mercantile Exchange Official Quotations.

Quotations at Mark.

Nearby fresh gathered extras ½ doz.....	@19
Nearby fresh gathered firsts.....	@18
Western selected storage packed firsts.....	18½ @
Western fresh gathered firsts.....	@18
Western fresh gathered seconds.....	@17½
Kentucky fresh gathered average best.....	17½ @17½
Kentucky fresh gathered seconds.....	@17
Tenn. and other southern average best.....	@17
Tenn. and other southern seconds.....	16 @16½
Southern, inferior.....	15 @15½
Western fresh gathered dirties No. 1.....	@15½
Western fresh gathered dirties No. 2.....	14½ @15
Checked eggs.....	@14½
Duck eggs, Baltimore, ½ dozen.....	@25
Duck eggs, western.....	22 @23
Duck eggs, Ky. and Tenn.....	21 @22
Duck eggs, other southern.....	16 @18
Goose eggs, ½ dozen.....	@35

Dressed Poultry.

Receipts today, 2,545 packages; last six days, 10,656 pkgs.; previous six days, 10,471 pkgs.; corresponding six days last year, 3,677 pkgs. The market for fresh fowls is in very unsatisfactory shape. Supplies are not so very large, but in excess of the supply, and with holders anxious to sell the feeling is weak and irregular. Most of the supply is southwestern, and 13c. all that can be depended upon for average best lots. Western are held at 13½c. when selected small, but most lots average heavy and difficult to sell straight above 13c. Spring ducks more plenty today, and lower. Squabs coming in more freely, and tone easy. Fancy nearby broilers in light supply and firm, but demand limited. Frozen poultry has a little peddling outlet, and prime grades remain about steady.

Fresh Killed Iced:—

Turkeys, western, young hens average run.....	15 @16
Turkeys, western, young toms average run.....	15 @16
Turkeys, old hen and toms.....	15 @15½
Turkeys, common.....	12 @14
Broilers, Phila., 3 lb. and under to pair, fancy.....	45 @50
Broilers, Phila., 3½ to 4 lbs. to pair, lb.....	35 @40
Broilers, Penn., 3 to 4 lbs. to pair, fancy.....	30 @40
Fowls, western dry picked, fancy, small.....	13 @13½
Fowls, western scalded, fancy, small.....	13 @13½
Fowls, southern and southwestern dry picked, average run.....	13 @13
Fowls, heavy.....	12½ @13
Old cocks, ½ lb.....	10 @10½
Spring ducks, L.I. and eastern, ½ lb.....	23
Spring ducks, Jersey, Pa. and Va., fancy.....	23 @23
Spring ducks, Jersey, Pa. and Va., fair to good.....	19 @21
Squabs, prime large white, ½ doz.....	\$3.00
Squabs, mixed, ½ doz.....	\$2.50 @2.62
Squabs, dark, ½ doz.....	1.75 @2.00

Frozen:—

Turkeys, hens No. 1.....	@19
Turkeys, toms No. 1.....	19½ @20
Turkeys, No. 2.....	14 @15
Broilers, dry picked.....	19 @20
Broilers, scalded.....	16 @18
Chickens, roasting soft meat, fancy.....	16 @17
Chickens, average No. 1.....	14 @15
Chickens, No. 2.....	11 @12
Fowls, No. 1.....	13 @13½
Old cocks.....	10 @10
Ducks, No. 1.....	14 @15
Geese, No. 1.....	11 @12
Capons, 8 lbs. or over each.....	20 @20
Capons, 5 or 6 lbs. each.....	18 @19

Live Poultry.

Receipts today 4 cars of western and 1 car of southwestern by freight, and a few scattering coops by express. There is a better demand today for fowls and the feeling fairly steady. Turkeys in light supply, but quality poor and very slow sale, and prices weak and irregular. Chickens and roosters in moderate supply and unchanged. Ducks about steady. Geese slow.

Fowls, ½ lb.....	@13
Chickens, ½ lb.....	@12½
Roosters, ½ lb.....	@8½
Turkeys, ½ lb.....	@12
Ducks, western average, ½ pair.....	80 @90
Ducks, southern and southwestern, ½ pair.....	40 @60
Geese, western average, ½ pair.....	\$1.00 @1.25

Exmoor Farms

SINGLE COMB
BROWN LEGHORNS.

Get their special mating circular for 1904. It is the best out.

They won on Females Jan., 1904

AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN,

1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th Pullets,
1st, 2d, 3d, 5th Hens.

AT CHICAGO,

1st, 3d, 4th, 5th Hens,
1st, 4th, 5th Pullets.

Their line has won 1st and 2d pullet Madison Square 6 years straight.

And are the undefeated Pullet line of America.

They were, up to December, 1903, the famous W. Theo. Wittman stock, but with the larger room and better care Exmoor Farms can and does give them they are bound to surpass and magnify their old glory.

Our circular, for our prices of eggs, get it.

EDGAR A. WEIMER, Prop.

Lebanon, Pa.

Study Poultry Culture

and realize your ambition, whether as a business of your own, or the management of others.

We Will Teach You How

to increase your income by keeping Poultry as a side line. To make a success of Poultry as a business. To fit yourself for a paying position as manager of a Poultry Plant.

Do it Now. Send today for our free prospectus. It gives plan and full particulars and tells how to acquire a thorough knowledge of poultry in your home.

THE AMERICAN POULTRY INSTITUTE,
Dept. P.3, Rochester, N. Y.

Rose Comb Black Minorcas

Single Comb Black Minorcas

Silver Laced Wyandottes

Eggs \$2 per sitting; 3 sittings \$5; per hundred \$10

ONALAKE POULTRY FARM,

SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N. J.

Box 20,

C. A. DURLING, Mgr.

FROST PROOF.



This box protects eggs from changes of temperature as well as breakage. Each is surrounded by four solid air tight walls, and two layers of dead air cells. Steam pipes in cars cannot start development of germ, neither will exposure chill them. Box seals. Can be packed in one minute. Made in four sizes. Sample 15 egg size postpaid. 20c., weighs 9 oz; will support half a ton. Catalogue free.

CANFIELD COOP CO., 7 Main St., Bath, N. Y.

NO MORE
LICE AND MITES

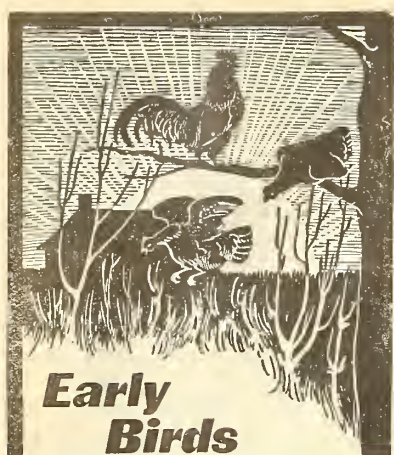
OLSON'S
Lice and Mite Killing
NEST EGGS

are the greatest and simplest device for keeping poultry healthy. One placed in a nest will, without further attention, kill all vermin infesting poultry. Used also in many other ways for disinfecting hen houses and destroying vermin on domestic animals and pets.

UNTIL JUNE 1 we will send prepaid a package of 4 of these Nest Eggs for 25c and 10c postage, usual price 50c.

Agents Wanted Everywhere
First come First served
Address

FURAY & MCARDLE OMAHA, NEB.

Early
Birds

for market, the tenderest broilers—the highest priced of all poultry, are the chicks fed on Dr. Hess Stock Food, the greatest conditioner of fowls. Costs but a penny a day for 30 to 60 fowls, according to age. Nothing else will keep fowls in such rugged health and force so much good solid flesh in a little while. Equally good for chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese.

DR. HESS
Poultry Pan-a-ce-a

is guaranteed to make hens lay—or money back—and to cure and prevent all poultry diseases. Cost, 1-lb. 25c; 5-lb. 60¢; 12-lb. \$1.25; 25-lb. 2.50; (except in Canada and the Pacific Slope.)

INSTANT LOUSE KILLER KILLS LICE.
More little chicks die from the effects of lice than all the diseases combined. Instant Louse Killer is the prescription of Dr. Hess (M. D., D. V. S.) for destroying these parasites. Dust the sitting hen and nest with Instant Louse Killer, and we guarantee the brood will come off free from lice. 1 lb. 25c; 3 lbs. 60c. If your dealer can't supply you send your order to us. Address

DR. HESS & CLARK, Ashland, Ohio
Makers of Dr. Hess Stock Food.

COBURN'S
BARRED PLYM. ROCKS

Are beauty and utility combined; eleven fine pens of breeders mated for both show and utility points. Eggs \$2 and \$3 per sitting; discounts on larger quantities.

Twelve good pens mated for utility points. Eggs \$1 per sitting; incubator eggs \$6 per 100. Choice breeding cockerels and pullets for sale. Circulars free.

F. A. P. COBURN,

B. 759 Stevens St., Lowell, Mass.

VICTOR INCUBATORS

are superior in construction and simple and economical in operation. They work regardless of weather or seasons. Every fertile egg means a chick. We pay freight. Our money-back guarantee protects you. Our book gives pointers that may mean dollars to you. It's free. Write today. Just say "Send the Victor Book" and we'll do it.

GEO. ERTLE CO., Quincy, Ill.

PINELAND
INCUBATORS

Hatch greatest number of finest chicks. BROODERS Have never been equaled.

FIDELITY FOOD
FOR YOUNG CHICKS.

Used everywhere by practical poultrymen and specialists fanciers with unflinching success. Insures perfect health and promotes rapid growth. Concise Catalogue from

PINELAND INCUBATOR and BROODER CO.,
Box D, Jamesburg, N. J., U. S. A.

1883 SWAN'S STANDARD ROOFING 1904

TRADE MARK

EXTRA HEAVY
FELT ROOFING

for poultry houses; a low price, durable roofing. Endorsed by thousands of poultrymen. Many of the largest poultry plants are covered with it; can be applied by anyone on steep or flat roofs. If you are going to build, or have roofs to repair, send for samples, circulars and prices.

THE A. F. SWAN COMPANY,
9 Battery Place, New York, N. Y.

To say, when writing Advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.

Geese, southern and southwestern average, $\frac{1}{2}$ pair 90. @ \$1 00
Live pigeons, $\frac{1}{2}$ pair @ 25

PHILADELPHIA.

[From official market report of the Philadelphia Produce Exchange, May 6, 1894.]

Eggs.—Receipts today 6,112 crates. Receipts during the week have been fairly liberal, but there has been a steady demand for desirable stock, and prices have been well maintained. The market closes steady, with supplies well cleaned up.

[The following are today's official quotations of the Butter and Egg Board of the Produce Exchange].

Penns. and nearby, returnable cases, at mark @ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Western, free cases, at mark @ 18
Southwestern, free cases, at mark @ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Southern, free cases, at mark @ 17

Live Poultry.—Supplies of fowls are fairly liberal, and the market is quiet at the recent decline. Spring chickens are barely steady under freer offerings, but demand is fair. Ducks are in ample supply and easier, under a light demand.

Fowls, hens 124. @ 13
Old roosters 9. @ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Spring chickens, choice, weighing 1 @ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. apiece, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. 30. @ 35
Ducks 124. @ 13

Dressed Poultry.—Receipts of fowls have been more liberal during the past week, and the market has declined $\frac{1}{4}$ c. under an indifferent demand and increased pressure to sell. Fine soft meat chickens are kept well cleaned up at outside rates, but staggy stock is dull. Squabs have ruled a shade easier under more liberal offerings and a light demand.

Fresh Killed:—
Fowls, choice @ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fowls, fair to good @ 13
Old roosters @ 10
Chickens, nearly 16. @ 17
Chickens, Illinois, selected fancy large yellow, soft meat @ 16
Chickens, Illinois, good to choice medium sizes 15. @ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chickens, other western, selected large yellow, soft meat 15. @ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chickens, western, fair to good 13. @ 14
Squabs, white, $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen \$2 25 @ \$2 50
Squabs, dark, $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen 1 25 @ 1 50

Another Question of Inbreeding.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—If I should purchase two pens of Barred Plymouth Rocks, one pen of cockerel, and one of pullet line, could I inbreed this line for several years, or would I have to introduce new blood, that is, a cockerel—to mate with the off-spring of the two original pens? B. R. Y.

I know of absolutely no evidence to show that you cannot go on inbreeding indefinitely provided you succeed in producing specimens of the type you wish or need to use in your matings that are good in size, vigor, etc., as well as in superficial points. But breeding—intelligent breeding of fowls is not a matter of following rules or charts. Pedigrees may be outlined—tracing breeding backward, but no intelligent reasonable person who gives the subject proper thought will tie himself to a scheme of breeding planned for years in advance. Intelligent breeding consists in a wise application of the principles of breeding to the stock used. One may have a provisional plan for several years—he may decide to try breeding along certain lines, but breeding along those lines is not the principal thing. The ideal results sought are to be the end of his labors. The method outlined is merely a means to an end—the means his present knowledge of the stock he works with suggest as most likely to be effective in promoting the end sought. To get the results he works for, one must always consider his plans and methods in their relation to his object. He can inbreed as long as by inbreeding he is coming nearer his ideals and losing nothing, but whenever the time comes when it begins to appear that results will come more surely and quickly by introducing new blood, the wise breeder begins to look around for the right specimen through which to make the desired improvement.

This may or may not be a cockerel. That will depend on which sex in the line bred is least satisfactory. If, as sometimes happens, the stock retrograde under a poultry fancier's treatment the wise thing to do is to get new stock of both sexes, not necessarily discarding the old until the results from the more recent beginning indicate that the breeder has a better grasp of his problem.

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CYPHERS INCUBATOR CO., BUFFALO, CHICAGO, BOSTON, NEW YORK.

Homes Wanted For Children.

We wish to again call the attention of readers of this paper to the work of the Boston Children's Friend Society. Last year as a result of a notice in these columns a number of boys and girls were placed in good homes. Mr. Seymour H. Stone, the secretary of the society, now writes us that they have a number of children of all ages for whom homes are wanted.

All readers perhaps do not understand that a good proportion of the needy and destitute children cared for by such associations as this are children of good parents whose antecedents suggest no possibility of constitutional traits which may prove troublesome. For such we have no doubt homes will be readily secured. But we feel sure that there are also those among our readers to whom the possibility of saving some waif from the effects of evil surroundings, and helping to build up a character that can withstand the assaults of inherent evil tendencies will appeal even more strongly.

Children whose age and strength permit are expected to do what they can in compensation for the home given them. The society pays the board of younger children. All children placed in homes through this society are wards of the society, the officers of which exercise most scrupulous care in placing children only in homes where they will be treated and surrounded by good influences.

For further particulars write or call on the secretary, Seymour H. Stone, 48 Rutland St., Boston, Mass.

Poultry Management at Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.

The Maine Agricultural Experiment Station is now mailing bulletin No. 100 on the poultry plant at the station, and the methods there employed in handling the stock from the egg to the mature bird. This bulletin was prepared in answer to numerous inquiries, and will be sent on application to any address in Maine, and to others so far as the edition will permit.

The following synopsis gives an idea of the subjects taken up in the bulletin: Hatching and rearing chickens with the hen; artificial incubation; rearing chickens in brooders; brooder houses; feeding young chicks; feeding cockerels for market; descriptions of the warmed house for 300 hens; roosting closet in open house; curtain front house for 500 hens; poultry yards; trap nest for individual records; and methods of feeding hens.

The bulletin has eight half-tone illustrations from photographs of the different forms of houses and the trap nest.

Requests for the bulletin (No. 100) should be addressed to the Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono, Me. In writing, please mention this paper.

A Problem in Breeding.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—A friend of mine writes, speaking of Dark Brahmas: "Now, on the square, you could not produce good penciled females in a thousand years by using low scoring stock." And further: "You must think me very green if you expect me to believe that the best show birds are not good to breed from."

My contention is that a line bred Dark Brahma pullet breeding cockerel might be penciled, show white on breast, and have gray fluff, and score 84, and still be worth a good deal as a pullet breeder.

I also say that my friend might buy the 1st prize cock and first prize hen of this breed at New York or Boston, mate these birds, and have few, if any, birds scoring over 90. Moreover, he might buy a first prize male bird at a show, mate him to cockerel breeding pullets and have no male birds from the mating worth much. This male bird might have been a chance bird, or perhaps the different lines of breeding did not nick.

As a general proposition, who is right? And am I trying to impose upon him by saying what you read above?

Quebec, Can. GUS. A. LANGEIER.

The query was referred to Mr. F. W. Rogers, who contributed the excellent article on the mating of Dark Brahmas, which we published a short time ago. Here is his reply:

As a general proposition what Mr. Langeier writes is true. In selecting or buying birds for breeding one would not be sure of getting the best for his purpose by choosing a first prize winner. A good show bird is not always a satisfactory stock bird.

It certainly is true that the results from the mating of the first prize birds purchased at any of our leading shows might prove very disappointing. In selecting birds for breeding a man should know the blood back of each bird, and have an understanding of the laws of breeding to have satisfactory results.

Brockton, Mass. F. W. ROGERS.

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Balanced Rations.

THIS day's mail brings two requests for information about balancing rations, a subject which has been threshed over a good many times in these columns, but will always be new to many readers—the new subscribers and those whose interest in the question of balancing rations is of recent growth.

The first letter reads:—"Can you give me the proper amounts of dry substance, protein, fiber, nitrogen free extract, and fat figured on 100 lbs. basis, required for the best results from the average laying hen? I want to get the standard so that I can figure out a ration."

The other says:—"I am desirous of mixing up a ration for growing stock that have unlimited range in orchard and corn field, but in large flocks; the ration to be fed three times a day, and to consist of cracked corn, whole wheat, hulled oats, and granulated meat. Will you kindly advise what proportion of each I should use in making up 100 pounds?"

I suppose I could give a good many different answers to both the above questions, any one of which, if used by the questioner, would give satisfactory results, and would therefore be considered right. I might say, for instance, that 12% protein, 70% carbohydrates, (nitrogen free extract), and 4% fat were the proper proportions. Fiber being quite, if not wholly indigestible, is not considered in estimating values of rations, though it is very evident to any student of the subject that the fibrous structure of some foods is a matter of considerable importance in practice. I might also say that 15% protein, 60% carbohydrates, and 3% fat was the proper proportion; or I might make it 10% protein, 65% carbohydrates, and 5% fats. If I were to give these three different statements of the proper proportions of the principal food elements to three different persons, and each were to make his ration accordingly, I venture to say that other conditions being approximately the same, the three would get the same results. Or, if I were to give three formulas based on these three statements of proper proportion to the same person, and ask him to test them on three divisions of the same lot of chicks, I feel very sure he would not, on several tests, be able to discover that any one of the rations was better than the others.

I haven't computed the values of rations with the percentages quoted above, so cannot say just how much difference there would be. These proportions are taken at random within limits of figures obtained some time ago by computing values of rations as used by certain good practical feeders, but quite apart from this kind of evidence I would feel perfectly safe in making the assertion as to like results from rations of different composition on my own experience in feeding on observation and comparison of results of the feeding of different poultrymen, and on many reports which from time to time have showed like results from different rations, as well as from radically different methods.

It seems hard for most beginners and for many who have given some study to the subject, to believe that there is not one particular combination of food elements which is absolutely right, and one way of feeding which is better than all others, but the facts speak for themselves. One may find that a certain ration gives him better results than any other, but if someone else is getting as good or better results with another ration, that fact nullifies his conclusion that his ration is the proper one.

The explanation of like results from unlike rations is very simple. In the first place there may be differences in conditions making differences in the requirements of fowls. Now if there were a fixed natural feeding "standard" it must be evident to everyone that on the supposition that it is exactly adapted to fowls kept under certain conditions it cannot be exactly adapted to fowls kept under different conditions, and so having different requirements. Then if we find fowls on the same ration giving like results under different conditions we are forced to conclude that the exact balancing of the ration is not a matter of prime importance to the feeder, for the

principle involved in the idea of providing carefully balanced rations is that these are *balanced* to meet the requirements of the fowls, and if the same ration gives the same results when requirements are different it is plain that there is something additional to be taken into account.

When we find further that fowls conditioned alike often give the same results on very differently constituted rations, we cannot—if our reasoning is governed by the facts and by the laws of reason—avoid the conclusion that even if there is a ration which is right, best, or "standard," (and we can neither prove that nor prove one ration superior to all others) nature has provided the fowl with the capacity to equalize possible errors in its ration.

That, indeed, is the case, and most of the earlier writers on the scientific balancing of rations recognized the fact, even though they sometimes seemed to forget it when they began to formulate standards. Our latter day scientific feeders are disposed to be more arbitrary both in theory and practice. Those who really understood the subject theoretically have always allowed the capacity of the animal system to use a surplus of one element to compensate for a shortage of another. It has been held that this could be done only within quite narrow limits, but considering how considerable are the differences in the proportions of the principal food elements in rations used for the same purpose and giving like results, I think it must be admitted that the digestive organs of the fowl are capable of equalizing considerable differences between the needs of the system and the constituents of the food.

At this point the advocate of scientifically balanced rations tells us that the virtue of his system is that by providing exactly what the fowl needs the food is more perfectly assimilated with less expenditure of energy on the part of the fowl, with greater economy in feeding, and with better growth or production. We would be perfectly willing to concede this if the scientific advocate could show us that the best results could be accomplished by what he had established as a perfectly balanced ration, and by that alone. This he has never done, and—I feel perfectly safe in asserting—never can do. To make out his case he must show that the ration he establishes as standard will produce the maximum of results at the minimum of cost. He must show that no ration of different constitution can produce the same results or better results at the same cost.

Whatever standard of feeding is set up is an arbitrary standard. It is exactly adapted only to certain conditions, which certain conditions, by the way, are always an unknown quantity. Admit that the fowl can equalize errors in rations, and it must also be admitted that it can equalize errors in a scientifically balanced ration. It not only can, but it does, and in doing so deprives the scientist of the opportunity to test his "standard" except roughly as the practical feeder tests his combinations and compounds. If nature takes care of such errors it is manifestly impossible to determine the existence of any error in a ration except one so great that nature could not correct the error. Such errors do occur. There is a great deal of very bad feeding. However, the range of variations which nature can take care of is clearly so great that any claim for exact balancing of rations becomes absurd.

This one fact of the capacity of the system to equalize matters makes exact balancing of rations superfluous. All that it is necessary that one should know about any article of

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food is that it is useful as a poultry food, and the proportions of the different staple articles that are used by skillful feeders. Starting from this knowledge he must learn by experiment and experience to vary the proportions according to the condition of the fowls, according to results, and according to his accumulating knowledge of the effects of different food articles.

Another point to consider is that to use a fixed feeding standard rationally one must know that the articles he uses are of that standard. Different samples of the same article frequently vary more in composition than the averages of two different articles. It is not practicable for a poultryman to know the analysis of every lot of feed he buys, but it is possible and necessary that he should learn to judge of the relative quality of each article of food by uses by inspection or taste, or some similar test. His judgment will not be absolutely accurate or always infallible, but it will become fairly reliable, and it will be practical—he can work with it, and he can learn to keep within the limits nature imposes, and as long as he does that it makes no material difference whether his ration is the one of all rations which requires no equalizing or balancing within the system—which is exactly adapted to the requirements of the fowl.

It is well to remember that the power of the fowl to adapt differently composed rations to its requirements is as valuable to us as its power to adapt itself to different conditions. It would be easy to show theoretically that it was wrong to feed according to a fixed and uniform standard, and it would not be a very difficult matter to show that in practice it was much better to make considerable variations in the composition of the ration as well as in the methods of preparing it.

The principle is the same that runs all through poultry keeping—in fact, we might say, all through life. We need change and variety within limits. Even if the requirements of the system were unchanging it would undoubtedly be better not to attempt to supply them uniformly. As they vary, and as nature wisely provided animal organisms with the capacity to adapt foods at all approaching their requirements to their needs, the man who insists on trying to feed according to fixed standards seems to me to be taking his poultry work much harder than is necessary, and, as I find them, those who try to be very careful in feeding to give only what they think the organism requires nearly always underfeed. The best feeders I know are liberal feeders who are not concerned about the balancing of rations further than to give a variety of the staple food articles. Indeed these articles—such as wheat, corn, barley, are so near the composition of the average good mixed ration that it is hard for one to go wrong in feeding them—provided he gives with them a good supply of green food and of animal food and makes suitable provision for exercise.

Much more might be said along this line did space permit. I think what I have said will perhaps convince some that there is more imagination than science in the so called science of feeding as exploited today. In conclusion I want to give a few practical directions to both correspondents quoted above:

For average laying hens take corn meal 1 part, bran 2 parts, and if you use meat meal or scraps in the mash add about ten per cent of the bulk of the mash. Give this once a day. I prefer to scald the meal to make a thick mush, then stir in the bran, and when that is pretty well mixed up add the meat and stir until it is mixed thoroughly. Then once a day give wheat, and once a day cracked corn. Give the fowls all the green stuff they will eat. Let this be your usual ration. Vary it still more by giving oats occasionally, or barley. In cold weather, and even on raw cold days in warmer weather, give more cracked corn or add more corn meal to the mash. Also give more meat food in cold and cool weather. In extreme warm weather or on warm days in cool weather reduce the corn and correspondingly increase less heating foods. Don't worry about protein, nitrogen free extract, etc. The staple grains have them in near enough to the right proportions, so that if other conditions are right nature will adapt them to needs.

The second correspondent I would advise to use his corn and wheat, about half and half, and to give the hulled oats and granulated meat as special feeds once in two or three days, giving the chicks just about what he finds they will eat up clean. I have never found chicks that were well fed with a variety of other grains at all partial to oats except when fed occasionally. Give them oats occasionally and they eat them with relish, but as a steady diet I never saw fowls take kindly to them if familiar with other grains.

How to Get to Japan.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—Perhaps the information contained in the following letter received from Messrs. Lunham & Moore, freight brokers and forwarding agents, New York city, will be of interest to you, also to the readers of your valued publication:

New York, April 4, 1904.

"Cyphers Incubator Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Gentlemen:—We have to refer you to your shipment of October 6th, consisting of twelve (12) cases of Cyphers incubators, brooders, etc., for Mr. A. C. Cooper, Vladivostok, Siberia. This shipment went forward from here per the steamer 'Lugano,' and was transhipped at Shanghai to the Russian steamer 'Mukden.' We have just been advised by the agents of the 'Lugano,' who, of course, issued a through bill of lading, that the steamer 'Mukden' has been captured by the Japanese and towed into Nagasaki as a prize. At the present time the agents cannot advise what has become of her cargo. Under the law, it is our understanding that this is a just prize, and of course the steamer's cargo will be sold, and the amount realized distributed among the crew of the capturing steamer.

Yours truly,

LUNHAM & MOORE."

Evidently the best way to reach Japan these days is to take a Russian steamer for a point in the far east. Yours very truly,
CYPHERS INCUBATOR CO.,
F. M. CURTIS, President.

Great Laying by S. P. Wyandottes and R. I. Reds.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—I enclose a clipping from one of our local papers containing an account of our egg record for January, February and March of this year.

My 54 hens laid 660 eggs in January, 914 in February, and 990 in March, making a total of 2,564 for the three months. Nineteen of these are Silver Pencilled Wyandottes, and laid 399 eggs in February. I have not kept a separate record since.

These hens were not confined at all during this the coldest winter known here in this generation. They waded in the snow if it pleased them, and ate of it freely. Their grain was given in a litter spread on a part of the stable floor, and the doors opening to the south were open all day so that they could go easily to their nests in their roosting house a few feet away.

Thirty-five of the fifty-four are Rhode Island Reds. Some of my pullets were hatched as late as June 21st and July 18th. They were not forced in any way, but were fed mixed grain morning and night, and mash at noon. The only thing that seems phenomenal is that while no one's hens were laying we were having plenty of eggs. The S. P. Wyandottes outlaid the Reds by a third during a trial through the month of February.

We very much regret that little episode at the meeting of the A. P. A. at Rochester regarding the S. P. Wyandottes, when "they would never become popular because of the difficulty of breeding," was said and sent broadcast. If true, it is to be regretted, for they are a splendid fowl, grand layers, active, hardy, excellent for table, and to the eye a constant delight. I hope this may be refuted by those who have bred these birds for several years. In our limited experience with them we have been successful beyond expectation, and we hope to do still better.

Kingston, N. Y.

J. L. PHILLIPS.

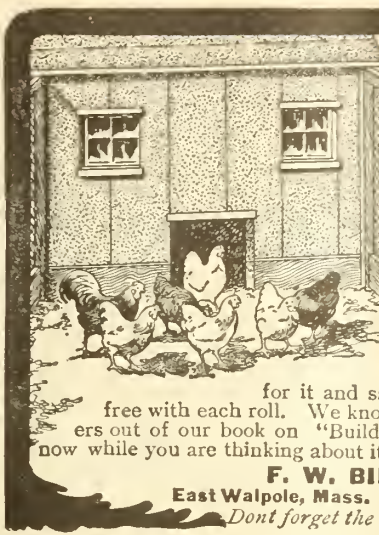
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